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Kent on Sunday

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Take a risk to be a 'have-a-go hero' says candidate for top police job

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CONTENDER for the most influential policing position in Kent has controversially called on the public to become "have-a-go heroes" and intervene when they see a crime taking place.

Independent candidate for the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner role, Dai Liyanage, said it was wrong for people to walk by in the event of a crime, such as an assault, and they should "take a risk" and go to help a victim.

Commenting on this week's announcement by justice secretary Chris Grayling that householders who react with force against burglars are being given more legal protection, he also admitted he would use "extreme force" in such a situation.

Former Medway Lib Dem mayor Mr Liyanage said criminals had too much protection and the Kent community could help put a stop to this.

Earlier this year he helped a man who was being beaten up in Victoria station. The offender was later convicted.

"Some people just walk away when they see a crime taking place, it's very sad to be in that kind of society," said Mr Liyanage. "I most definitely think people should intervene. They shouldn't just walk away, they should go and help that person, but some people choose to cross the road and ignore it.

"If you just stand back and call the police, how do you know when they will come?

"[Getting hurt] is one of the risks you take. As a citizen you have to try and protect another if they are in trouble.

"I would think twice if the person had a knife or a gun – you have got to use common sense – but I think too many

Continued on page 2

GOLF ACE AIMING TO PUT A DIFFICULT YEAR BEHIND HER

ON THE COURSE: Karen Stupples is optimistic about the future **– SEE SPORT P70**

COURT CASE

Animal export legal battle

THANET council is bracing itself for a legal showdown with three Dutch companies after proceedings were started to overturn the suspension of the live animal export trade from Ramsgate. The town hall, which owns the port, suspended the trade after 45 sheep were killed. **PAGE 5**

INDUSTRY

Foreign threat to hop heritage

KENT has long been associated with hops for beer – but that heritage is now under threat from foreign imports. There are worries British hop farming may vanish within a decade as brewers use imports from Europe, America and New Zealand to add unusual flavours to beer. **PAGE 12**

SPORT

Camier signs on dotted line

LEON Camier says that while he had offers to change team next season in the World Superbike Championships it wasn't a difficult decision to remain with FIXI Crescent Suzuki. The Ashford 25-year-old signed a new one-season deal with Suzuki after the final round of the season. **PAGE 70**

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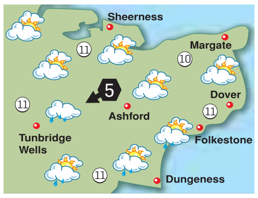

TODAY: Sunny spells and showers, some perhaps heavy. A light wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). **TONIGHT:** Clear spells. Variable cloud. Min temp 5-8C (41-46F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	10.36	6.7	22.54	6.7
Margate	11.43	4.7	–	–
St Mary's	04.17	5.5	16.35	5.7

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 12C	Min 7C
Tuesday	Max 13C	Min 7C
Wednesday	Max 13C	Min 8C
Thursday	Max 13C	Min 8C
Friday	Max 14C	Min 9C
Saturday	Max 15C	Min 10C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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CRIME

PCC candidate urges people to be have-a-go heroes

Continued from front page

people often stand back. I think they get scared.

"Of course, you can understand why someone wouldn't get involved, but if you've got the courage and conviction to do so, you should. There will be a victim that you can help."

Mr Liyanage said he didn't hesitate to help the victim he saw being assaulted.

"I was with my wife and she was not keen to intervene," he said. "There were hundreds of other people but I don't think anyone else got involved.

"I think the majority of people thought they should mind their own business.

"There was a big guy hitting a cleaner, really punching him. I stopped the guy from hitting him and another tried to come in and hit him. I helped the victim and the police arrived within minutes. I have two daughters and I would like to think someone would help if they were in trouble."

Speaking about the announcement on householders and burglars, he said people needed to be better protected.

"I would use extreme force if someone was in my house," he said. "I think burglars need to be brought to justice. I'm not saying shoot them if they are on your property, but they have far too many rights."

Both Kent Police and the Kent Police Federation refused to respond to his "have-a-go hero" comments. On its website, however, Kent Police urges the public to call 999 when a crime is in progress or life is in danger.

Responding to Mr Liyanage's comments, policing minister and Ashford MP Damian Green said: "We would not encourage anyone to put themselves at risk but the public have a crucial role in the fight against crime. There are lots of things people can do such as joining Neighbourhood Watch, becoming a Special Constable, and of course voting in the PCC."

Chief executive of Victim Support, Javed Khan, said the charity was involved in helping victims learn how to stop situations escalating.

"We don't want to create more victims by people taking unnecessary risks. The public should always rely on emergency services," he said.

"But giving frontline public servants the skills to recognise when it's safe to intervene and the ability to help defuse potentially difficult situations is valuable if done appropriately."

This week a war veteran in Cambridgeshire accused shoppers of ignoring his cries for help as he was robbed in a busy supermarket. Michael Saxby, 83, said he was screaming for help but people walked past.

POLICE

TV adverts aiming to raise awareness of upcoming crime commissioner election

By Marijke Cox
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TACKLING burglary, violence and anti-social behaviour, or deciding how to make people feel safe where they live will all be in the hands of a single person next month.

In a historic moment in policing, five weeks from now voters have the opportunity to choose the county's first Police and Crime Commissioner – the person who will set the policing priorities for Kent and ensure our safety.

They will not run the police but be "the voice of the people" and hold the force to account.

But so far the apathy seen towards the election and the apparent lack of understanding has raised fears that only a small minority will turn out. Some predict as little as 18 per cent of the electorate will bother to vote.

This could undermine the authority of the successful candidate, who will work closely with Kent Police and have the final say on major policing decisions in the county.

In our July survey into the PCC election, a staggering 75 per cent of the 213 Kent people asked had no idea about the upcoming poll and almost half said they would not vote. Many commented it was because they didn't understand the role of the PCC, or had no idea the election was even taking place.

Hopes are a new hard-hitting TV advertising campaign, launched by the Government and aired during prime-time shows such as X Factor and Downton Abbey, will raise the profile of the November 15 election.

Speaking to this newspaper during a visit to Kent last week, justice secretary Chris Grayling said there would be lots of media coverage in the run-up and candidates will be out talking to people in a bid to raise awareness.

"Policing is one of the things on which people have a strong opinion," he said. "This is the opportunity for people to have a say."

But he admitted that a low turnout – which is also usually seen in local government elections – was a worry.

The successful candidate, who will be paid a salary of £85,000, will have the power to hire and fire the chief constable, set the police budget, write and publish a police and crime plan, and commission services.

The chief constable will remain responsible for operational matters but the PCC will decide how policing money is spent.

New policing minister, and Ashford MP, Damian Green said it will introduce democracy into the control of policing.

"They will be voted in by the public and will be responsible for setting the overall framework, so it is important that people vote," he said.

A Home Office spokesman said it gives the public the chance to have a say on "the most important public service of all".

"The arrival of police and crime commissioners will mark the most significant democratic reform of policing in our lifetime," he said.

"The public will finally have a seat at the table when key decisions are made about crime and policing in their area."

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FACTS

WHO IS THE KENT POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER?
They replace the Kent Police Authority which currently sets the policing budget and holds police to account. The PCC will have the power to hire and fire the chief constable, set the county's policing plan, set the police budget, engage with the community, and commission services.

WHO CAN VOTE? Everyone who is eligible to vote noramlly can go to the polls on November 15.

WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?
Prospective candidates are: Craig Mackinlay (Conservative), Harriet Yeo (Labour), Piers Wauchope (Ukip), Steven Uncles (English Democrats), John Botting (National Liberal) and independent hopefuls Ann Barnes, Dai Liyanage, Ken Little, Fran Croucher and Fergus Wilson. The official list will be announced on October 23.

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PETS

Flying away? Send your brood for a clucking good time at Fowlty Towers

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HEN HOUSE: Send your chicks for a holiday

CHICKEN owners no longer have to get in a flap about leaving their feathered friends alone during holidays, because the poultry world's answer to The Hilton Hotel is the perfect home-from-home for hens.

The aptly named Fowlty Towers, run by chicken lover Julie Smith, allows the birds to relax in comfortable accommodation or roam free in the grounds of the Cowden-based hen hotel, near Edenbridge.

Mrs Smith, who has 13 of her own hens, provides treats and pampers the chickens while their owners are away.

The 54-year-old said: "I help re-home ex-commercial hens to give them a better life. People used to come and have a look to potentially take some, but they would often say they wouldn't know where to keep them if they went on holiday.

"I started looking after chickens as a favour for people and I thought it would be a good business idea. They've become the thing to have in your garden and people love to have their own fresh eggs.

"I love chickens and I have my own so it's a pleasure."

Mrs Smith said while bookings are sporadic, the summer had been quite busy and word of mouth was beginning to spread: "There are other places that do this, but usually it's kennels that look after other animals and have decided to take chickens too. Fowlty Towers is exclusively for hens and it's in my own garden.

"We house our guests in Eglu Cubes [a type of chicken coup] with a three metre run and although it's said they can house up to 10 birds, the maximum at Fowlty Towers is six."

The "guests" are provided with a disinfected cube, feed, grit, corn, water and bedding.

"They get a five star experience – everything my own girls (hens) get," she said. "Mine get totally spoilt and so do the chickens that come to stay.

"It's a pleasure for me; I get up at 4am in the summer to start taking care of them although a little later in winter.

"They have plenty of space and if they become poorly I'll take them to the vet."

Mrs Smith, who often takes her own hens for a trip into the village in a stroller, added: "If you think this is somewhere your hens would be happy whilst you are away, moving house, or just want a couple of days off, then Fowlty Towers is the place to go."

TECHNOLOGY

Superfast broadband is on the way

HIGH SPEED: It will not be long before 90 per cent of Kent homes enjoy faster connectivity

KENT County Council's £43m project to transform the county's broadband speed is steaming ahead, with a network supplier due to be in place by next spring,

It means the authority's pledge that everyone will have either superfast or sufficient broadband connection by 2015 is on track.

The Kent and Medway Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) Project is part of a nationwide drive to ensure all households have internet access.

KCC is investing more than £10m and the Government £9.87m. The remaining funds will come from a network operator.

The scheme looks to ensure 90 per cent of properties in the county access superfast broadband of 24Mbps or above – which enables a film to be downloaded in around 15 minutes – and the remaining 10 per cent access to 2Mbps – a film download speed of approximately three or four hours.

KCC says it has secured an early slot on the Government's "procurement pipeline" meaning it can invite network operators, such as BT or Virgin, to put in tenders to run Kent and Medway's broadband at the required speeds.

It means a supplier is due to be in place by early April and the project can start to be rolled out. This latest update follows setbacks in the national scheme caused by delays in approving state aid notifications with the EU. But KCC said locally it was on track.

"Whilst the national BDUK programme has slipped due to delays in approving the UK state aid notification and finalising the national procurement framework, a considerable amount of work has been undertaken at a local level to prepare the ground and ensure that Kent BDUK is ready to go," the authority said in a report to councillors. "This preparatory work has meant Kent has been given an early slot on the procurement pipeline compared to other areas.

"We anticipate we will launch our procurement at the end of October and the project will commence in early April."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Care home slammed

A CARE home near Ashford has been issued with a formal warning by inspectors and told it must make urgent improvements.

The Care Quality Commission said the Charing Court Residential Home was failing to protect the safety and welfare of residents. It issued two warning notices following an inspection of the Pluckley Road site in July.

Inspectors said there were not always enough staff on duty and toilets and bathrooms were in a poor state of repair.

TV chef turns judge

FAVERSHAM'S fruit attraction, Brogdale, has cooked up a storm with a competition set to be judged by world famous chef Raymond Blanc.

The French television cook will judge the final bake off at Brogdale's Apple Festival on Sunday, October 21.

And there is still time to be in the running as visitors can enter an apple cake into the competition on the first day of the festival, October 20, to be in with a chance for the final judging on the following day.

Farmers get praised

THE president of the National Farmers' Union has paid a glowing tribute to the county's farmers and growers following what he described as "one of the most difficult growing seasons in living memory".

Peter Kendall made the comments during the annual county harvest thanksgiving service held at Canterbury Cathedral. He added: "We all need to be thankful for the efforts of our hardworking farmers."

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EDUCATION

As principal quits amid £16m deficit, college studies hard for recovery plan

By Chris Britcher
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IT HAS been another dramatic week in the corridors of K College, with its financial plight claiming its highest-profile casualty yet after the principal confirmed he was to resign.

Bill Fearon's dramatic announcement came during a governors' meeting at the college's Tonbridge headquarters on Monday.

Outside were more than 150 staff from across Kent who had walked out in protest at plans to axe 145 jobs as part of cost-cutting measures.

Prior to that, the college had confirmed what was widely speculated – that, rather than the £11m losses the college admitted for the financial year ending July, 2012, the total deficit ran to £16m. That figure takes into account one-off costs such as the aborted development of the multi-million-pound new Ashford campus and the technology centre at Tonbridge.

Both have been "postponed", says the college, "not cancelled".

The scale of the losses, however, cannot be overlooked. Nor, more pertinently, how the college was apparently unaware it was sinking into such a deep financial quagmire.

The Skills Funding Agency, the Government department that funds and regulates further-education establishments, is monitoring the situation closely. An interim management team from a specialist consultancy, FE Associates, is at the college as it looks to make savings and hit a target of breaking even "within two years".

CUTS ANGER: Protest group Save K College is to meet with the head of governors in November

Mr Fearon, who had been principal at West Kent College prior to its merger with South Kent College two years ago – a move that resulted in the creation of K College – said he was "very sorry" to be leaving under such circumstances but that he was "extremely proud" to have held the role for 10 years.

He will leave the college at Christmas. An interim principal will then take the lead to the end of the academic year before a permanent successor is appointed.

Michael Moran, regional officer of the University and College Union (UCU), which organised Monday's strike, said: "There are clearly problems at K College and Monday's governors' meeting made it clear there was little agreement on the best next steps. What remains absolutely clear is the need for a proper look at the accounts and more money from the funding agencies."

A recovery plan is now being drawn up. It will need to convince both the SFA and the college's bank, Barclays.

The college has said it intends to sell its Folkestone campus at Shorncliffe Road by next summer. It has already sold the Ashford Jemmett Road site, while it is working with the local council to find a suitable town-centre replacement.

It has vowed no other campuses would be sold. It has sites in Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge, Ashford, Folkestone and Dover. More than 9,000 students are taking full or part-time courses.

A campaign group set up to fight the Folkestone closure said it was taking some hope after chair of governors Laura Ellis arranged to meet the team behind Save K College.

A question mark still hangs over Mrs Ellis's role, as head of governors, in not being aware of the problems to have engulfed the college.

Campaigner Lynne Beaumont said: "We want to engage with the college to achieve our aim of preventing the closure of the Folkestone campus."

However, there are fears that should the campaign save Folkestone, the need to cut costs could see dramatic moves at other sites.

But Mrs Beaumont added: "We do not believe cutting is the only option. We think it should continue to grow in order to get more students through its doors and raise more revenues."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Festive rail disruption

TRAIN passengers can expect disruption over Christmas and New Year. There will be no Southeastern service on Christmas Day or Boxing Day, although a special half hourly high-speed shuttle runs from Ashford International to St Pancras International on December 26. Services will end at 10pm on Christmas Eve. A weekend timetable will be in place between Boxing Day and New Year's Day, although some additional peak hour services will be put on.

Woman, 81, dies in fire

AN elderly woman died in a Maidstone house fire on Monday. Fire crews were called to Langdale Rise at 5.50pm and found the 81-year-old woman unconscious in a first-floor bedroom. The firefighters took the woman downstairs and administered first aid until the ambulance service arrived. The woman died at the scene. Police say investigations continue into the cause of the fire and a post mortem examination will be carried out to establish the cause of death.

Man flytipped on marsh

A MAN has been convicted of fly-tipping after dumping household waste at Romney Marsh. Jamie Lukehurst, 30, of Stumble Lane, Ashford, pleaded guilty of dumping rubbish. He was fined £300 plus a victim surcharge of £15 and was also ordered to pay £919.29 towards clear-up costs. The prosecution was brought by officials at Kent County Council working with Shepway District Council.

ANIMALS

International legal battle begins over suspension of live exports

THANET council is bracing itself for a legal showdown with three Dutch companies after proceedings were started to overturn the suspension of the live animal export trade from Ramsgate.

The town hall, which owns the port, suspended the trade following an incident in September which saw 45 sheep killed.

However, owner of the vessel Joline, Barco de Vapor BV; livestock meat trader Onderwater Agneaux; and transporter Johannes Quirinus Wouterius Maria Onderwater, are now fighting back and demanding the council overturns the temporary ban.

The trio are also seeking damages from the authority for breaching European law.

Thanet council has said live exports would not be allowed to resume unless proper facilities were built at the port, but added that lifting the ban was not at the top of its priority list. And the district council insisted it will fight the legal challenge after it received formal notification of the case.

In a statement, it said: "The council has received the advice of a leading counsel that its actions in imposing a temporary live animal export ban at Ramsgate are lawful.

DUTCH ROW: Three European firms are taking legal action against Thanet District Council

"It therefore intends to mount a vigorous defence of its actions."

However, some agricultural lawyers disagree and said the council had acted unwisely by suspending live exports.

Matthew Knight from Tunbridge Wells fim Knights said: "I think it's hard to see how the council will possibly manage to stop the trade through the port.

"The whole reason of the European single market is there is free movement of live animals and this is as clear as an example of restricting this. My money is on the exporters."

Tim Ryan of Warners Solicitors added: "Anyone who prevents exporters will have a very damaging impact on UK farmers, and my concern is the council are acting improperly because of pressure by animal welfare charities."

One of the pressure groups calling for a live exports ban is Compassion in World Farming, and it said it was not surprised by the exporters' decision to start a legal challenge.

Director of public affairs Dil Peeling said: "While we are disappointed by this legal challenge, we are not surprised.

"Those with something to gain from the continuation of the trade have always expressed a determination to bring live exports back to Kent, against the wishes of local people.

"Regardless of the legality of the trade under EU law, its resumption would mean more unnecessary suffering for thousands of animals who are subjected to long and stressful journeys, that, as the incident at Ramsgate demonstrates, can have disastrous outcomes."

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DEVELOPMENT

Hollywood entertainment complex to rival O2 Arena

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

THE company behind a planned £2 billion entertainment complex is hoping its state-of-the-art performance venue – a key component of the ambitious scheme – will rival the O2 Arena in attracting huge stars like Lady Gaga and Take That.

This week, London Resort Company Holdings Ltd (LRCH) announced plans to build an entertainment hub even bigger than theme park giant Disneyland Paris.

If it gets the nod, the park will create a massive 27,000 jobs, giving north Kent a huge economic boost, and attract visitors from across the world.

Hollywood studio Paramount has lent its name to the project which will be built on an 872-acre former cement site on the Swanscombe peninsula.

The film studio already has similar licence agreements with parks in Spain and Korea, which are both still under construction.

Paramount is the company behind hundreds of blockbusters including Indiana Jones, Tomb Raider, and Star Trek.

Among the facilities on the site at Swanscombe will be Europe's largest indoor water park, theatres, live music venues, attractions, cinemas, restaurants, and hotels.

It is believed the company wants the music venue to attract as many big names as the O2 Arena in Greenwich.

With proposals now to be put forward for planning in the next 18 months, followed by public consultation, LRCH hopes the scheme will open for business in 2018.

Some 17,000 jobs will be created directly in the park and 10,000 through supply chains within the community, plus the additional construction jobs.

LRCH say many of the roles will include young people, apprenticeships, older workers, and skilled jobs.

Dartford and Gravesham councils have warmly welcomed the news and now await the planning application.

Tony Sefton, project leader for LRCH, said: "Our vision is to create a world class entertainment destination, the first of its kind in the UK.

"We are particularly pleased with the appetite we are seeing from investors, who consider this a compelling investment proposition. Post-Olympics, this is Britain's next major regeneration opportunity."

Sources close to Paramount revealed the firm was pleased with the deal and keen for work to move forward.

The site is close to Ebbsfleet International station, something developers hope will help increase access.

Dartford Tory MP Gareth Johnson said: "On the face of it this project is fantastic news for the area.

"This will also bring much-needed investment and tourism to Kent, not only from London and the UK, but internationally as well."

Gravesham Friends of the Earth raised concerns about flooding on the site, and said the congestion on the A2 and at Dartford Crossing would need to be addressed.

The plans also prompted renewed calls from Kent County Council for a third Thames crossing.

Leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "The number of people visiting and working in the area as a result of the development presents an even more powerful case for a new Thames crossing."

DEVELOPMENT: If given the go-ahead, the project – which has been linked with Hollywood studio Paramount – is anticipated to create 27,000 jobs

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CRIME

Case dropped against evangelist who staged supermarket anti-gay protest

By Chris Murphy
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A CHRISTIAN group is calling on the police to stop arresting its members for staging controversial protests, only to eventually see the cases tossed out of court.

It comes after a protestor from evangelist group Christian Voice was arrested and charged with a public order offence for distributing leaflets outside a Gravesend Tesco criticising the supermarket giant for financially backing this year's London Gay Pride March.

The leaflet also claimed the company had turned its back on cancer research by withdrawing backing for the Race for Life event.

Part of the leaflet read: "...any unbiased observer who has seen the London Gay Pride parade will admit it is a deliberately divisive, provocative and aggressive display of indecency and perversion".

And it adds: "The motivation behind Gay Pride is to bully the rest of us into accepting the gay activist agenda, which has already achieved civil partnerships and gay couples adopting children and now wants full 'gay marriage'."

The man arrested was Raj Bhachoo and his case went to Dartford magistrates, but the Crown Prosecution Service dropped it following the late introduction of "new material".

Christian Voice pointed to another recent arrest of members in Brighton for displaying a large graphic banner of an aborted foetus.

FREE: Stephen Green celebrates with Raj Bhachoo

On the Tesco incident, the group said Mr Bhachoo was arrested, kept in a police cell for hours and charged with "threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour".

National director Stephen Green said: "Police officers need to be more aware of the law than they are. They think they can shout the Public Order Act at anyone they want, but they can't.

"It is getting embarrassing for those who say there is no persecution against Christians in this country when they are repeatedly arrested."

Mr Green said he was arrested in 2006, and charged for handing out evangelistic leaflets at the Cardiff Mardi Gras. At the subsequent hearing, the prosecutor dropped all charges.

He said: "Christians just keep winning these freedom-of-speech cases. It is not against the law to preach against sodomy, to tell the public the facts about homosexual lifestyles, nor to display graphic images of the effects of abortion."

The CPS said: "We were served with new material by Mr Bhachoo's solicitors a few days before the trial. The case was reviewed again in light of this new material and a decision was taken that there was no longer a realistic prospect of conviction. As a result, the case was stopped."

Tesco said: "We had received a number of complaints from customers over the behaviour of the protestors outside our Gravesend store in January. A colleague politely asked the protestors to move on, but when they refused to do so the police were called.

"Tesco continues to work closely with Cancer Research UK – they are currently our Charity of the Year partners and we are aiming to raise £10 million this year."

It said it sponsored the 'family area' at Gay Pride, but would not confirm how much that cost.

And Kent Police confirmed a man was arrested for alleged public order offences after reports of a homophobic leaflet being handed out.

They said: "If the case is dropped, then it is a matter for the CPS and the courts. We police the law as it is."

BUSINESS

£35.7m developer sale

PERSIMMON Homes has completed a multi-million pound takeover of housebuilder Hillreed Homes.

The firm says the deal is part of it "continuing to expand its business". Hillreed, established in 1975, will join Persimmon's brands Persimmon Homes, Charles Church, and Westbury Partnerships. Persimmon purchased Hillreed for £35.7 million.

Persimmon Homes South East will have its headquarters in Maidstone, headed by managing director Darren Jones.

Hillreed was the leading privately owned housebuilder in Kent, Sussex, and the broader South East. The business has a land bank extending to approximately 3,400 plots including strong strategic land holdings in the region.

Nigel Greenaway, Persimmon's south division chief executive officer, said said: "Our objective is to use the brand for further growth in the South East region and ultimately deliver more local quality homes."

SPORTS

Games star for awards

OLYMPIC taekwondo gold medal hero Jade Jones is to be a special guest at a sports award ceremony. She will congratulate some of the county's sporting hopefuls at the Thanet Sports Awards at the Winter Gardens on November 21. The Team GB star said: "I think the Thanet Sports Awards are an amazing opportunity to celebrate the best of the area's sporting talent."

THE WEATHERMAN

Weather forecaster Michael Fish was one of the best known BBC TV weathermen. And it was he who gave a broadcast which would go down in history as perhaps the most memorable of all time.

On the night of October 15, just after the news, he told viewers: "Earlier on today, apparently, a woman rang the BBC and said she heard there was a hurricane on the way... well, if you're watching, don't worry, there isn't."

The rest, as they say, is history. Mr Fish's famous prediction even figured in the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games at London 2012.

HERITAGE

The Great Storm: 25 years since the night of carnage

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

IT RIPPED a path of destruction across the county; millions of trees were uprooted, millions of pounds of damage was caused. And for one well-known weatherman, life would never be the same again.

The Great Storm of 1987 took place 25 years ago this month, as hurricane-force winds reaching speeds of 120mph battered the south east. It was the worst storm in the UK for nearly 300 years.

It ripped up six of the seven oak trees which gave Sevenoaks its name. It flung a cross-Channel ferry out of the safety of Folkestone harbour and onto the beach, tore off roofs, left people without power for weeks, and brought the transport network grinding to a halt.

On the night of the storm, Robin Castle was on duty at the Sheerness lifeboat station. He remembers getting a call to come to the aid of two men in a boat as the winds started building. They wouuld face wind speeds of 90 knots.

He said: "We had a call from the lifeboat that flares had been spotted over Allhallows, so we deployed and managed to get alongside the family day boat. It was certainly one of the most hairy rescues I've done because of the strong winds and the fact you couldn't see a lot because of the spray.

"It's the most extreme weather we've seen here."

Some 15 million trees were felled across the area as a result of the storm – the remains of many still visible, creating a new landscape.

The Forestry Commission's regional director, Alan Betts, said: "It is amazing to see the trunks lying there, with the branches all heading skywards.

"In many ways, it symbolises how resilient our trees and woodlands are, and how the devastation of the losses felt by the storm have left a unique ecological legacy for possibly hundreds of years."

After the storm passed, community spirit kicked in and locals gathered to care for the vulnerable, repair the damage and help to clear the streets.

Sevenoaks councillor Jill Davison recalls: "I woke to find that Swan Lane was blocked in both directions. Everyone joined in to clear the road, so we could get into town to find out how bad the situation was. With electricity out, it was decided that the WRVS (Women's Royal Voluntary Service) should set up a rest centre for anyone who could not cope at home and also to provide rest and food for emergency service workers.

"The worst problem was the length of time the power lines were down. Despite all the efforts of engineers from all over the country, it was weeks before all were re-connected."

And it was quite a challenge for workman trying to get power back into everyone's homes, with a number of staff being transported in army helicopters to help inaccessible communities.

Ray Lewis, who worked for Seeboard, helped get various parts of Kent switched on again. He said: "There were some shifts where I was working from 7am through to 1am the next morning.

"It was actually quite exciting, but there was a lot of hard work involved. Some parts were so badly damaged that you had to build a new line."

UPROOTED: Trees were blown over, including six of Sevenoaks' oaks, pictured below

IN NUMBERS

120
speed in mph of the highest winds

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trees uprooted

6
of the seven oaks of Sevenoaks blown down

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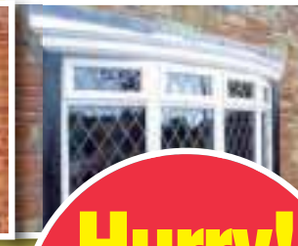

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INDUSTRY

Gimmick of foreign imports leaves bitter taste as concern grows for our declining hop industry

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT has long been associated with hops for beer, symbolised by black and white photographs of visiting Londoners on stilts picking out a living – but that heritage is now under threat.

The way hops are harvested has changed over the decades, but now foreign imports are threatening the county's ancient industry.

There are worries British hop farming may vanish within a decade as brewers use imports from Europe, America and New Zealand to add unusual flavours.

Faversham-based family business Shepherd Neame is Britain's oldest brewer and a major market player with its Spitfire and Bishops Finger ales. It sources 95 per cent of the hops used in its cask ales from Kent to make around 70 million pints a year.

Head brewer Richard Frost warned against being too gloomy.

He said: "There is a lot of talk about threats to the hop market and I can see the arguments on both sides. However, following the sharp decline of recent decades, we are now at a plateau in terms of acreage.

"We should be careful not to let the use of foreign hops become a marketing gimmick.

"If British growers can provide what is required in the UK market by developing new varieties, then I can see little reason to import hops.

PRESSURE POINT: Kent's hop industry faces a fight to keep afloat as foreign hops brought in from Europe, America and New Zealand impact on the UK market

"All brewers can do is keep a strong relationship with hop growers and continue to champion great British beer, using British – or in our case Kentish – hops.

"Kent produces hops of unrivalled quality and is at the vanguard of developing new varieties thanks to our hop research centre at Wye Hops.

"Simply put, hops and Shepherd Neame are part of Kent; the county is inherent in our identity. It doesn't really make sense for us to not use Kentish hops."

The Kent Green Hop Beer Fortnight, which has just ended, saw 20-plus brewers used only fresh, locally-grown hops which went into the beer less than 12 hours after being picked.

Organisers hope to stem the flood of imports and persuade drinkers Kent hops are best because the oils create a light and fresh flavour.

Just Kent, Hereford, and Worcester currently grow hops, down from the peak total in 1872 of 72,000 acres to the current 2,500 acres.

There are 20 varieties of hops grown commercially in the UK, each of which offer different flavours and aromas to brewers.

The most common in Kent include East Kent Goldings, which has spicy, honey and earthy characteristics; Target, which can bring elements of pine, cedar and liquorice; and Challenger, with hints of spice, cedar and green tea.

One spark of future hope is the development of new varieties including dwarf or hedgerow plants which cost less to grow, can be picked by machine, are more resistant to disease, and need less care.

Eddie Gadd, head brewer of Ramsgate Brewery, said: "Many people don't realise what an incredible range of flavours and aromas brewers can create by using different varieties of British hops in different ways.

"It would be a national tragedy if this part of our history and heritage was allowed to just disappear."

And Alan Unwin runs Wealden Hops Limited in Yalding, which sells on 35 per cent of Britain's hop output

He said: "Lager has been a big downfall as they use a third less hops. Foreign imports are hitting the market hard because they can be made cheaper and that attracts the big brewers.

"Last year, Britain grew 28,000 hundredweight of hops; this year that will probably drop another 3,000. It's going down all the time."

And Paul Corbett, managing director of hop merchant Charles Faram and Co, said if demand continues to decline the infrastructure not just for growing, but for picking and processing hops will disappear.

"If we don't stick up for the UK hop industry now, there will be no industry in a decade's time," he warned.

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CAMPAIGN

Luton or Heathrow 'better than estuary airport'

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A TORY-backed think tank has recommended Luton as a better option than the Thames Estuary to build a new hub airport.

Policy Exchange – previously run by Boris Johnson's former chief of staff Nick Boles who is now planning minister – pointed out a number of weaknesses in the north Kent airport proposal in a joint report with think tank CentreForum.

Author of the report, and chief economist of CentreForum, Tim Leunig – education secretary Michael Gove's policy advisor – stated that the best approach would be to build a "new four runway Heathrow" west of the current site.

But he stressed that if that was not possible, Luton was the next best location.

"This airport is on the right side of London for the rest of the country, and can easily be linked with high quality connections to London, the M1, the West Coast mainline and East Coast mainline," he said.

OPTIONS: If Heathrow is not expanded then an expert says Luton Airport would be a better choice than a new estuary hub

"There are disadvantages; the site is relatively hilly and Stansted would have to close. In addition, business and individuals that have located near Heathrow for access to the airport would need to relocate.

"For those reasons Luton is second best, but deserves to be considered."

He stressed that while Britain would not be impoverished overnight if new air capacity is not built, there was a need for a hub airport.

Mr Leunig said, however, it would not necessarily need to run 24/7.

He said Grain was not the answer and that a new four runway Heathrow was the best option.

"These new runways would replace the existing runways," he said. "This would be straightforward to construct, and relatively low cost by the standards of hub airports.

"A combination of tightening permitted noise classes, ending night flights and landing narrow bodied planes more steeply makes it almost certain that this airport would be significantly quieter than the existing airport, despite catering for almost twice as many flights.

"Leaving the airport where it is works for air traffic control. It also works for the wider economy; companies that have located near to the airport because they need to be near the airport do not have to move.

"The design of airport proposed here would be operationally efficient for both passengers and airlines, and would be the world's best hub."

Mr Leunig pointed out a number of weaknesses in architect Foster and Partners' Grain proposal. He said it would destroy protected habitat; create construction issues involving the demolition of 1,400 houses and a Grade I-listed church; and would prove expensive to access.

"The plan is to have a high speed train from St Pancras to the airport, which will run at ten minute intervals, and take 30 minutes to make the journey," said Mr Leunig.

"This is a plausible time; the distance is a little over twice the distance from Paddington to Heathrow, so the train will take around twice as long as the Heathrow Express.

"The Heathrow Express currently costs at least £34 return, so a pro rata cost estimate for a ticket to the estuary airport would be around £75.

"Of course the cost could be subsidised by the airport, but in that case people will end up paying the same amount, but in another way."

He said mainline trains would take almost an hour to reach the airport.

He also stressed that there was "no rationale" in making either Stansted or Gatwick into Britain's major hub.

No Estuary Airport

What are your views on the proposals? Share your opinion by writing to Airport Campaign, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk and put 'airport' in the subject line. Sign the petition at www.stopestuaryairport.co.uk

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CRIME

Strength in unity with scheme to crack the cycle of reoffending

By Chrissie Daniels
chrissie.daniels@archant.co.uk

TWO former prisoners have hailed a new scheme tackling prolific reoffending in Kent as 'life changing'.

The project – the Kent and Medway Integrated Offender Management (IOM) scheme – unites a variety of agencies under one umbrella, all working together to try and crack the cycle of crime and reoffending and the factors which lead to it.

It currently works with around 200 offenders across the county.

Agencies working as part of the scheme include Kent Police, the Probation Service, the Drugs Intervention Programme and Jobcentre Plus, among others.

Each district and borough council has a local community safety unit which delivers the scheme, managing around 10-15 offenders.

IOM, which tackles the most prolific offenders, has only been running for a year, but is already seeing positive results. Early indications suggest it will reduce reoffending rates, although exact figures are not yet available.

James, 21, who is on probation and managed by the Thanet office, has been in and out of prison since he was 15 after his hopes of becoming a footballer were dashed.

He said: "I played football for Millwall until I was 15 and I severed my tendon. It started to go downhill from there."

He went on become a user of cannabis and cocaine and commit burglaries.

"I came out of prison, got motivated and decided I wanted to change. I moved from London to Thanet. IOM has given me lots of help and motivated me," he said.

James now has his Construction Skills Certificate Scheme (CSCS) labouring card and hopes to work in the construction industry. He is expecting a baby with his girlfriend.

He said: "I want to do well for my kid and get a job. I would not have had the motivation without IOM. I would recommend IOM to people that are in prison and want to change their lives. If you want something in life, you have to go for it."

Offenders are selected for the IOM scheme if they show they want to change and leave crime behind them.

Probation officer Sally Reader said: "Before [the IOM] different agencies were doing different things which was not very cost-effective and we did not know what anybody else was doing."

Another offender Amy, 36, a former herion addict, was sentenced to five years in prison for robbery. She was released this summer.

For her, the moment she realised she wanted to change was during the last year of her sentence when she was allowed to visit her family.

She said: "The IOM is really supportive. On my release I wanted to change everything. During one of my home visits at Christmas I thought this is not where I want to be when I get out.

"There were too many expectations and I wanted to better myself."

Amy, who is originally from the south west, moved to Kent and is managed by the Maidstone IOM.

She said: "I had one blip; three weeks after I was released I took cocaine. As soon as I had done it I knew I had made a massive mistake."

Now she wants to be a hairdresser and eventually run her own business.

She said: "I'm the one that keeps myself out of prison. IOM stops any unhealthy thinking. It's the best thing I could have done for myself."

Sarah Billiald, chief executive for Kent Probation, said: "This is not short term. They are starting their lives over.

"We could see crime in Kent reducing year on year. If we are going to keep crime going down we have to tackle reoffending and break the cycle. We have to tackle underlying issues."

Steve Corbishley, chief superintendent at Kent Police, said: "It's also about getting individuals to face up to the consequences and the impact of their behaviour on victims."

HOPE: The IOM project offers convicts a new start

ENVIRONMENT

Oil tank safety warning

HOMEOWNERS have been warned to check oil storage tanks this winter to save money and the environment. The Environment Agency warning comes after an oil supply line between a storage tank and house near Sittingbourne, was damaged earlier this year, and oil ran into a stream. Absorbent pads needed to be used to soak up the oil, and soil by the house had to be excavated.

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News

COMPETITION

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Set to Halloween themed music, this year's display will include well-known songs such as Thriller and Ghostbusters.

The fireworks will be let off from floating pontoons on the moat, creating beautiful reflections in the water surrounding the historic castle.

Gates open at 2pm, last admission is at 5pm, and fireworks start at approximately 5.30pm.

The castle will be closed to the public on November 3-4, but the gardens, grounds and aviary will remain open to those attending the Fireworks Spooktacular events. A falconry display will take place near the maze at 3.30pm.

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Please note if you should enter after the closing deadline of October 23, 2012, your entry will not be valid, but you still may be charged. SMS services are provided by Velti DR Ltd, SE1 8ND, telephone 020 7633 5020.

Alternatively enter by post to Leeds Castle Firework Spooktacular Competition, Archant KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SS.

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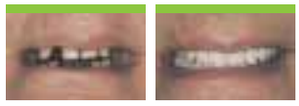

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CINEMA

Hometown premiere for horror film hoping to repeat Blair Witch success

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A NEW independent horror film is to get its world premiere in Ramsgate before being shown at a series of international festivals.

Ex Abyssus, written by Jacob Sherwood from Ramsgate, will be screened at the Granville Theatre on Saturday, November 10, at 7.30pm. It will be a chance for local people to see the film for free before it goes around the world.

The film tells the story of an eccentric director from the 1980s who, while working on his comeback project, is diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. It isn't long before the events and themes of his films begin to merge with his life and the fabric of reality is shaken up, said the makers, who are hoping to repeat the success of the Blair Witch Project.

The film was produced by a group of young, talented film makers in Thanet.

BURNING: Actor Ben Courtney is transformed during make up

It stars Margate-based actor Gregory Caine, who had been signed up to play Harry in Night of the Living 3D Dead, but was so impressed with Ex Abyssus he changed his schedule and worked for free.

He said: "I'm very excited about this project. I think Jacob has a unique insight into the horror genre and has mingled intricate themes, while maintaining great subtlety in the humanity of the characters.

"The best part as an actor is that the central character of Kenny is pushed to extremes both psychologically and physically and that has been a great challenge for me."

Christ Church University music graduate Marvin Dent, who composed a dark atmospheric score for the film, added: "When I first read the script I was blown away. The ideas were amazing, I knew I had to match that with the music."

Mr Sherwood, a University of Kent graduate, also directed the film. He said: "There are a couple of laughs, but this is not Shaun of the Dead, it's more serious.

"We are going for a 15 certificate as there is some violence, but it's not really gory.

"I am not clever enough to write a book, so this was the next best thing. The budget was just £200 for the whole thing, so if it turns into something with Blair Witch success we will be very pleased.

"We were able to assemble a team of highly artistic and creative local people to produce an extraordinary motion picture.

"I hope the audience at the premiere like it but if not we will go back and do some more work, then launch it on the festival circuit."

ON SET: Gregory Caine takes a break between scenes. The film and TV actor adapted his schedule to take part in the project

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News

FOOD

Special apple is poised to pick up gold award again

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PICK ME: Rubens are grown at 13 Kent farms

IT'S officially known as Britain's tastiest apple, and nearly all the nation's crop is grown in Kent.

And the Rubens is set to take the title again this year – for the third time in a row – claims one of the major companies behind the classy fruit.

Paddock Wood-based company Norman Collett said the fruit will soon be back on supermarket shelves. It has the marketing rights for Rubens which is grown in Kent by 13 farmers.

There will be 1,300 tonnes of Rubens this year from what are presently young trees, which will soon be producing 3,000 tonnes once fully grown. The company said there are plans for a further 40,000 trees to be planted over the next 24 months.

The company said to twice be the winner of Britain's tastiest apple award was an amazing accolade because it was judged by some of the top apple experts in the country.

Rubens beat all of the other apple varieties grown in the UK, even global favourites like Gala and Braeburn.

This year the competition will take place on October 17 and Collett said it was going for gold for a third time. There is quiet confidences despite some strong competition.

Commercial director Michael Joyles said: "We are excited by the eating quality of Rubens this year. We clearly have an advantage on other producing nations in a regular season in terms of flavour, but this year does seem to be exceptional.

"We are bored talking about the weather, but because of it we do want to apologise for the later than normal delivery of the fruit this year – but the longer an apple takes to grow the tastier it will be."

The first grower to plant Rubens in the UK was Nigel Bardsley of Staplehurst.

He said: "I knew we were onto a winner when I ate my first Rubens in Italy back in 2005. It is gratifying this home-grown fruit is even better."

Rubens are an offspring of Gala and Elstar and are said to have captured the best attributes of both varieties. They are also a versatile – being suitable for cooking and juicing as well as eating fresh.

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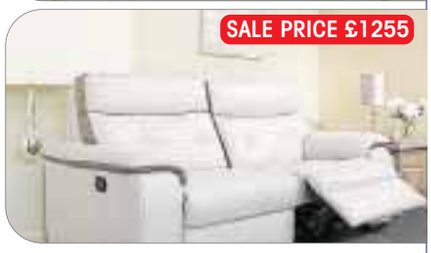

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SAFETY

Hard-hitting 'I Spy' campaign to stop deaths on railway footpaths

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

I SPY something beginning with a quick and messy death that will bring grief and distress to everyone who ever knew the victim.

The answer is 'train'. And the happy childhood game of I Spy is being used in a hard-hitting television advert to drive home the message that footpath railway crossings can be lethal.

With more deaths across the UK, and a host of near misses in Kent over the past 10 months, Network Rail is trying to drive home the safety message.

Luckily, there have been no rail deaths at crossings in Kent between January, 2007, and June this year, but there have been 15 near misses on the 153 footpath crossings in the county during 2012.

The advert's message is 'see track, think train' and highlights that even in a quiet, rural setting, paying attention to the railway and warning signs can save lives.

It was developed by Network Rail and shows a family on a day out playing I Spy as they cycle through the countryside.

I SPY: The dangers of level crossing are emphasised in a new ad campaign

The game distracts them and as the daughter tries to guess what the letter 't' stands for, she is suddenly standing on the track in the path of a train.

Network Rail said everyone should approach rail footpath crossings as they would a busy road – even in quiet rural areas.

The company's route managing director for Kent, Fiona Taylor, said: "While fatalities at level crossings are at a low, it's important to continue to raise awareness to help keep people safe when crossing the railway. We appreciate that it's easy to get distracted – particularly in quiet, rural surroundings – and not realise the risk at a footpath level crossing, but just as motorways cut through the countryside, so do railways.

"We're doing all we can to make the railway safer by upgrading crossings or closing them if we can, but we hope this advert will raise awareness that we all need to take care and look out for the warning signs ahead of every level crossing; doing so can save your life."

Network Rail has a £130m investment programme to improve level crossing safety, which includes 750 crossings removed from the network by April, 2014, and replacing footpath crossings with footbridges.

It is installing warning lights as an additional safety measure at footpath crossings and starting a programme, Rail Life, to teach primary and secondary school children about crossing safety. There will also be 10 more camera enforcement vans around the UK.

SUPERNATURAL

Second spookiest road in the world

WITH Halloween approaching, a Kent road has appeared in a global list of the top 10 most haunted stretches of tarmac in the world.

The A229 which runs from Sussex in to the county is said to be haunted by several ghosts, according to the List Verse trivia website.

It's at number two on the list, and the authors wrote: "In November, 1992, Ian Sharpe was heading up the A229 from Sussex into Kent. A girl in white with beautiful eyes stepped in front of his car and disappeared under the front wheels.

"Sharpe stopped the car believing he had killed her and was powerless to help. On leaving the car he found nothing there. No girl, no body no white dress – or even any wildlife; a fox a badger or a rabbit."

It also details the notorious Blue Bell Hill bride, said to have been killed on her wedding day and occasionally appearing on the road running between Maidstone and Medway.

The site authors wrote: "The local constabulary are not strangers to calls of people ploughing into pedestrians, more specifically, a woman in white, only to lose track of the body.

"If you are passing Lower Bell pub to Maidstone, don't be too surprised if that hitchhiker vanishes before you reach your destination."

At number one in the list is Clinton Road, in New Jersey, America, with talk of a ghostly river boy tossing coins at drivers, stalking wolves, and reports of Satan worshippers hanging up bloodied clothes next to mutilated animals.

Other countries mentioned include Hong Kong and Scotland. Britain makes the list four times.

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News

TECHNOLOGY

Green broadband trial means villagers are well connected

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

BROADBAND internet 'not-spots' in Kent have long been a headache for rural communities needing a fast service, but a county-led innovation could spell the end of the problem.

Bekesbourne-based company Vfast used Womenswold, near Canterbury, to trial its innovative wind and solar power technology to deliver a decent broadband service.

The success means the firm has now been listed as a finalist in the NextGen awards, presented at a House of Commons ceremony this month.

Vfast said it entered the 'rural leadership and community development' category for its innovative work after Womenswold was identified a having poor or non-existent broadband.

The environmentally-friendly solution was to place a solar and wind-powered mast in Woolage Green to deliver a broadband signal wirelessly to cover the village and surrounding area, including Womenswold, less than two miles away.

HI-TECH: Mast at Woolage Green

The groundbreaking innovation for the company allows the residents of small hamlets to enjoy speeds only normally available in large cities, the company said. Further environmental benefits include allowing locals to work from home and small businesses to operate in an idyllic setting, eliminating some commuting.

Rebecca Brown, managing director of Vfast, said "There is something very special about being able to provide a fast broadband network that is powered only by natural resources that we take for granted, we will certainly be looking into using this technology in as many networks as possible, thus reducing our carbon footprint as a company."

She added: "I am pleased the residents of the Woolage Green area are now able to access superfast broadband.

"Vfast has enabled the parish to enter the digital age while reducing impact on our environment and for that we are extremely proud."

The company was founded in Ashford, in 2005, and operates a Kent-wide network delivering connectivity to residential and small business customers using both fibre optics and WiMax class wireless network.

The NextGen Challenge is designed to showcase the best in next generation digital access infrastructure innovation around Britain.

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CHARITY

Riot gear police 10k fun run

A TEAM of police officers are getting ready to run 10k while wearing full riot kit and carrying shields, to raise money for charity. They will be running in the Julie Rose 10K event in Ashford on Sunday. The officers are raising money for The Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital. To sponsor the team of police officers and to donate to the Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Unit, visit www.justgiving.com/10kShieldRun.

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AGRICULTURE

Food boffins test new technique for growing melons on tables

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A SCIENTIST has started producing melons – in growbags on table tops.

He said the method simply just hadn't been considered before and if successful, will change the way the fruit is produced in the UK.

The trial at food science firm East Malling Research is investigating the production system at a commercial scale as UK growers respond to climate change.

Nearly 1,000 melons of four varieties are currently being cultivated in table-top growbags, and some have just been harvested and will be assessed for taste and appearance.

Graham Caspell is commercial farm manager at East Malling Research, and he said this was a private experiment.

After examination this year, if he believes it can be a major commercial success, EMR scientists and farm staff will set about further testing – analysing and identifying melon varieties suitable for growing on table-top production in UK conditions.

Mr Caspell said: "We proved we can grow melons in Kent after successfully growing more than 9,000 of them here last year.

MELONS: Farm manager Graham Caspell is investigating a new growing method

"What we don't yet know is if we can grow the crop more intensively using the table-top, growbag method, which makes for easier picking and eliminates the possible damage caused to crops by soil-borne pests and diseases.

"Normally these are done on the ground in the soil. These table tops are about a metre off the ground and done in peat bags. Costs will soar if farmers need to install the tables and bags, but we see this as more of what is known as a 'catch crop'.

"Anyone who currently has table top production of strawberries can produce melons in between. It would be a major benefit for these people as they have the infrastructure already in place."

Asked why melons are not already produced this way, he said: "I honestly don't know. I have spoken with French and Spanish seed companies and they have never heard of it being done."

He said this year's crop is being grown in 150 metres of polytunnels as part of wider novel-crops trials funded by the East Malling Trust.

Mr Caspell said: "It is possibly one of those 'why didn't we think of this before?' moments. This is something I am playing with, I just want to show it can be done, but more research is needed.

"Kent could soon be the UK hub for novel fruits such as apricots, kiwifruit and melons, as climate change provides opportunities to grow fruits that supermarkets have traditionally sourced from other parts of the world."

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SLAUGHTER: Residents in an area of Lympne have seen their cats being cruelly killed over the last two years, with one poor feline being doused in creosote

ANIMALS

Beheaded cat is one victim in series of bloody pet killings

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A CLOSE-KNIT community has been left devastated after a spate of cat killings involving pets being strangled by snares.

In the most shocking case, a cat was found with its head and paws removed.

Residents in the Belcaire Close area of Lympne, in Shepway, said the problem had been going on for almost two years, with cats found trapped in snares, another found doused in creosote, and five others disappearing in recent months.

A series of cat deaths was seen in Medway earlier this year, with 10 killed in January through antifreeze poisoning – thought by the RSPCA to be deliberate.

Aafke Kromdijk, whose own cat Thomas was killed in Lympne, said it was extremely distressing for pet owners.

"We were so happy moving to Lympne and set up our forever home," she said.

"This has been ruined by a sadistic person who must not have a conscience.

"There are so many pensioners who live around here with their only company being their cat or dog and this is very worrying for them."

The 33-year-old said her cat died in August after becoming trapped in a snare.

"A neighbour rescued him but after cutting him out she was not able to catch him. He was found dead two days later with a piece of black string next to him, the same type that had been used in the snare.

"I spoke to neighbours after this and found out this had been happening for a while, especially in the Belcaire Close area where cats keep going missing.

"This was confirmed by the community warden and there was a mention in the village newsletter."

She said some cats had been caught in snares, one was found alive doused in creosote and then died from antifreeze poisoning not long after, and another was found with no head or paws.

Miss Kromdijk said someone living in the village was trying to keep foxes out of their garden and had admitted cats might also be getting caught.

"This person doesn't care – they've admitted they don't want cats in their garden," she said.

Another neighbour, who asked not to be named, said her cat had recently gone missing.

"He didn't stray very much but he just disappeared overnight. Somebody said they heard a cat screaming in the early hours of the morning. I suppose you think it's cats fighting but now I can only imagine what was happening.

"We've had cats before that were attacked by foxes or run over but there was always some evidence of what had happened. In this case our cat just disappeared."

An RSPCA spokeswoman said the charity was investigating the cat deaths.

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For more information, or to obtain a Booking Form, please contact the Saturday Academy Co-ordinator: Tel: 01634 845196 **Email:** SaturdayAcademy@BoRAcademy.org

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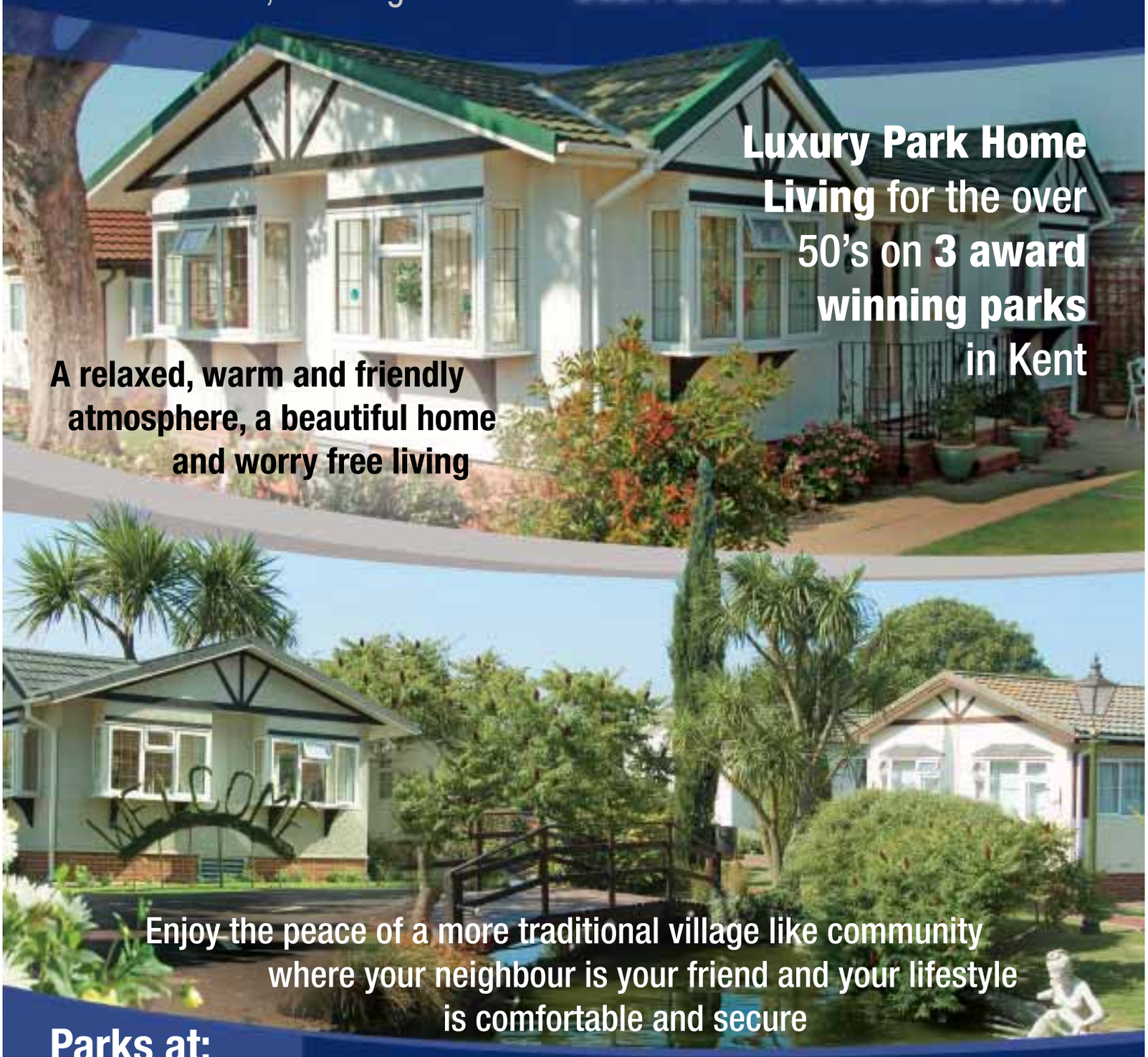

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

GOOD OLD DAYS: Arthur Boswell's pictures of Bexley are a perfect record of how the town once looked

Snapshot of the world through Victorian's eyes

By Dean Kilpatrick
dean.kilpatrick@archant.co.uk

A FASCINATING window has been opened onto the way the world once was – and not only provides a fascinating glimpse of a bygone age, but captures one borough's transformation from small Kent town to thriving London suburb.

A rare display of early photos from across the globe has gone on show at a special exhibition.

Hundreds of pictures, including snapshots of north Kent, have been put on display at an exhibition called Illuminated World in Bexley.

Victorian explorer Arthur Boswell, who had a passion for amateur photography, took photos during his visits to exotic places including the African plains and the Norwegian fjords.

However, the keen photographer also found time to capture his Kent surrounding more than a hundred years ago, and some of his 14,000 images are being displayed at Hall Place.

He also worked locally as a cinema projectionist, and took on other occupations such as historian and palmist.

Boswell's photos were created from original glass lantern slides, which were first used in the mid-1800s, and also contains shots from Italy.

Experts say Boswell's photos show the time when the area was transformed from a vital part of the Kentish countryside into a London suburb.

Bexley Heritage Trust chief executive Caroline Worthington said: "We hope that Bexley's residents will enjoy taking a trip down memory lane with us during their visit to Illuminated World through images which chart the changing faces of the borough.

"Illuminated World is an exhibition we are delighted to unveil. We know it will appeal to photography and history lovers as it will local residents."

And this will be the first time the images have been put on public display after being unearthed from the town's local archive.

The original photographic equipment which Boswell used will also be displayed at the exhibition, and it is hoped people be enchanted by the old photos.

Hall Place collections manager, Kirsty Mack-

len, said: "Little is known of both Boswell and indeed of many of the subjects shown in the pictures, which make them both captivating and mysterious.

"By definition, photography was so different then which makes for an interesting counterpoint to the pervasiveness of digital photography today."

The exhibition remains on display until March 17 at Hall Place in Bexley. Admission is £7 for adults, with concessions charged £5.

OPINION

Airport plan simply outdated

Friends of the Earth campaigner **Jenny Bates** says proposals for an airport on the Thames estuary fly in the face of environmental fears

THE Thames estuary is a magical and precious landscape and a vital habitat for hundreds of thousands of birds – the last thing we should be doing there is building a massive international airport.

But this nightmare prospect for local people and wildlife could become a reality if London Mayor Boris Johnson gets his way.

There isn't a capacity crisis, but there is a very real environmental crisis.

The truth is there is no need to build any new airports or to expand existing ones in the South East.

Airport expansion would create more noise and pollution misery for thousands of people, destroy wildlife, and make it far harder to meet legally-binding UK climate targets.

The Thames estuary and its surrounding marshes are officially recognised as Special Protection Areas and serve as an important migration hub for hundreds of thousands of birds. They are also covered by the Ramsar Convention as wetlands of international importance, an agreement which provides for the conservation and good use of wetlands.

Far from being wastelands, the area is home to thousands of species and needs to be protected, not bulldozed for a reckless project that simply isn't needed.

Climate change is the biggest threat to the planet we all depend on. The economic damage it could cause if we don't take urgent steps to tackle climate change will dwarf our current financial difficulties.

If the aviation industry doesn't play its part in cutting carbon emissions, other sectors, such as housing, will have to make even bigger cuts to compensate.

Airport expansion makes no economic sense, despite the impression given by the misleading spin of the aviation industry. The need to service demand for emerging overseas markets is often put forward as a reason for new airports or runways, but London already has more flights to the world's top business centres than any of its European competitors.

The aviation industry is getting a great deal at the moment – it effectively receives a huge multi-billion pound subsidy from UK taxpayers because of tax-free aviation fuel, no VAT on buying new aircrafts or servicing planes, and duty free sales – and this will rise if aviation is allowed to expand.

Changes in the way the aviation industry operates could mean better services for people and the planet.

At the moment runway space is often clogged up with flights to British destinations or places such as Paris or Brussels – destinations which could easily be reached by train.

The truth is there is no need to build any new airports or expand existing ones in the South East

If more slots for long-haul destinations are needed, airlines could swap short-haul flights to long-haul flights.

To help make this happen, ministers should prioritise better and faster public transport and make it cheaper and easier to use trains instead of environment-wrecking short-haul flights.

Businesses should also be encouraged to fly less and use technology like video conferencing to save on travel, which would save them time and money, too.

With a number of airport expansion plans being floated, many will start to question the flimsy arguments put forward by the pro-aviation lobby.

The fact is, aviation expansion affects all of us, and isn't necessary for our economy to thrive.

Boris Johnson says expanding Heathrow would be "simply mad". A Thames Estuary airport would be equally crazy.

KOS COMMENT

Ambitious plan could mean welcome work

IT SOUNDS almost as far-fetched as something out of a movie script, but it's true – Kent could be the setting of a new £2bn leisure and theme park, dreamed up by Hollywood giant Paramount and expected to rival Disneyland Paris.

Without doubt this could be a hugely positive move for our county. The 28,000 jobs will help some who have struggled to find work during the recession, and the promise by the creators to use local produce will give businesses a boost.

There will no doubt be a mixed response to these plans, with some people who may think the land could be better used. But let's be positive. It's not everyday we're promised thousands of jobs and the chance for the world's eyes to be on Kent.

Unhappy memories

IT'S been 25 years since the Great Storm swept through Kent, leaving destruction in its path and killing five people.

Memories of the storm are unlikely to be forgotten. Perhaps we should think twice when moaning about the dismal weather and realise we're lucky to have escaped such treacherous conditions for so long.

Feedback

Letters/emails/twitter

Whitstable coastline
by John Hillman from Gravesend

IMAGES OF KENT

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Independent only in name

I FIND myself in full agreement with the sentiments expressed by Christopher Hudson-Gool on police commissioners (Letters, October 7).

However, this ill-advised legislation is now with us and we have to decide on November 15 our choice from a list of candidates, political or otherwise.

For my part, I am appalled that the political parties, among whom there can be few with the necessary qualifications or experience, are seeking to politicise our police service.

Despite the comments of the Justice Secretary on his recent visit to the county, I am sure the overwhelming majority of Kent people will be unconvinced by his claim that a party political Police and Crime Commissioner would be independent of his or her party.

I speak as one who spent his whole working life in the world of politics, witnessing the pressures that political representatives were subjected to by those who had selected them as candidates and to whom they were accountable.

Neither Chris Grayling or anyone else will convince me that politically backed candidates will be acting independently should their political backers take a different view on a policing issue.

Kent is probably more fortunate than many counties in that it has in Ann Barnes, a genuinely independent person who has the required experience and integrity to serve the interests of the community while defending the political independence of our police force.

David Robertson, Sandwich

Road charges drive me mad

BRIAN Gregory of the Association of British Drivers is correct, (Letters, October 7) about the selling of existing roads to private companies and then being charged to use them.

By virtue of taxation over many decades, roads are owned by the people of this country, governments are only custodians; it is not theirs to sell.

Councils already charge us to park on roads we have paid for in motoring taxes or as ratepayers.

About £48 billion is collected annually in motoring taxes, but only £4 billion is re-invested on new roads and a similar amount allowed for maintenance. Not a very good financial balance for something that are the economic arteries of the country and support 92 per cent of passenger miles travelled.

While these billions of pounds go into the Treasury coffers, latest Department for Transport figures show that every passenger mile by train is subsidised to the tune of 8.1p per mile.

Terry Hudson, Swalecliffe

Campaigning for the lonely

LONELINESS is as bad for us as smoking cigarettes and increases our risk of dementia.

There are more than 800,000 elderly people in England who are chronically lonely. This can be caused by many things including bereavement, ill health and sensory loss. But services and activities keeping older people connected are under threat.

This will affect us all.

It is not too late for action to reduce loneliness: in the next six months new local forums for health and care officials will make decisions that could affect the future of these services.

Loneliness Harms Health is a new campaign from the Campaign to End Loneliness, aiming to inspire people to urge health and well-being boards to act on loneliness.

They need campaigners now. I encourage everyone to get involved in the campaign to ensure local decision-makers act on loneliness.

Ben Turner, Marden

Taxing issue of border control

MY suggestion on the revenue collected from the foreign lorries is to give it to the Border Agency.

Has anybody noticed that checking-in nowadays is bordering on scandalous. You wait God knows how long for a passport check, running the risk of missing your ferry or Eurotunnel shuttle.

They must either be short of staff or the technology has caught up with them. Either way they could use the money for recruitment or retraining of the workforce, or at worst we will soon be looking at a two-hour check-in instead of 30 minutes – long-haul flights come to mind.

Why the wait or the fuss for law-abiding citizens with a genuine passport who just want to get home after a holiday?

It does make sense considering hundreds of illegal people are being smuggled or finding their own way in everyday just to claim asylum and benefits.

PJ Carpanen, Hoo, Rochester

Airport could be a blessing

I READ with interest the article by Dean Kilpatrick in KoS on September 30.

It is good to see so many opinions by people who obviously have a genuine and well-meaning interest in the proposals for airport expansion in the Thames estuary.

However, I do have two minor quibbles regarding the information in the article.

Firstly, the location of the Richard Montgomery as given appears to be several miles from and midway between the published locations of the Boris Island and Lord Foster's Cliffe Airport proposal, therefore it would be the flight paths and not the runways that would be affected by a 'time bomb catastrophe'.

Secondly, munitions and explosives are not the same; the explosive content of munitions, dependant of type, can be less than half the total weight.

Nevertheless, the Richard Montgomery has been rotting for nearly 70 years and little concern has been shown by the authorities for the people of Sheerness and surrounding areas until the coming of the airport proposals.

From the dire consequences expressed by some, you would have thought the environmentalists and local authorities would have been pressing for the evacuations of the entire area over the years. I can't remember any plans being mooted for this dreadful event if and when it might happen.

The coming of an estuary airport may not be the blight on the north Kent coast as expected, but rather its saviour. The removal of the Richard Montgomery would be expensive, but possible due to the vast advances in underwater working thanks to the offshore oil industry.

The removal of this menace would be of benefit to the entire environment of a huge area and its economic future for years to come.

RG Shakespeare, Wilmington

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**

Working hard to solve problem of holiday pay

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q IF I am employed legitimately 'on the books' by a business, but my earnings vary because I am paid by the number of jobs per week, am I entitled to holiday pay? If so, how would it be calculated?

A ALL full-time employees who work five days a week are entitled to 28 days of paid holidays each year. Part-time workers have their paid leave scaled down, so someone working two-and-a-half days a week would be allowed 14 days of holidays with pay. These days do include bank holidays, though. And, of course, this is the minimum entitlement. Some employers allow more. For most people, the rate of holiday pay is simply their normal earnings. So anyone who is paid monthly will receive their normal monthly pay. No special calculations are needed. But if your earnings are not a regular amount, some individual arithmetic is called for. As a piece worker, paid by the job, your holiday pay will be the average of your earnings over the previous 12 weeks. For example, if you earn £300 a week for six weeks, and then £200 a week for the following six weeks, this comes to a total of £3,000. Divide by 12 and your average earnings are £250, so if you take a week's holiday, this is the holiday pay you should receive.

Q A FIRM I worked for in the 1970s has told me I am due a pension of £45 a month. Can I claim this as a lump sum? I am 60.

A THE answer depends on what other pensions you can claim. If all your pension savings added together come to less than £18,000, you can draw this as a lump sum. Otherwise, you have to take the pension.

Q I WILL be 75 in October. I believe I shall qualify for an extra tax allowance, but do I need to claim this or will it be given automatically?

A THE tax threshold for anyone over 75 and on a modest income – under £25,400 a year – is £10,660. You should get this automatically. The taxman must know your age as you will already be receiving the extra allowance for those in the 65-74 age bracket.

A A FRIEND died without leaving any will, though I know she would have wished a local charity to benefit. I made inquiries and was told her estate was 'bona vacantia', so belonged to the Crown. Can you confirm this and say what it means?

A 'Bona vacantia' is Latin. It means 'goods without an owner'. If someone dies without leaving a will, and there are no known relatives to apply to administer the estate, the Treasury Solicitor's Department – a government agency – will take control of the deceased's property and try to trace any remaining family. If inquiries and advertisements fail to turn up any claimants, after a period everything left by the deceased will pass to the Government.

Q MY boyfriend and I are in permanent jobs. He is a teacher and I am a civil servant. We want to buy somewhere together, and we can afford the mortgage repayments, but what we do not have is the deposit. Banks and building societies seem to think that everyone can put down about 20pc of the price of the property, but it is impossible to save this much when you have to pay rent on your current home.

A THE days when lenders would stump up 100pc of the purchase price are long gone. Now, the best deals seem to be reserved for borrowers who can find at least 20pc or 30pc as a deposit, which rules out almost all first-time buyers. There are three ways round this for you. Some lenders will accept a guarantee from your parents or take their savings into account. National Counties Building Society will lend up to 95pc, as long as your parents own enough equity in their own home to provide a guarantee. There is also the government's Homebuy scheme (www.homebuy.co.uk), which lets you buy a stake in a new house or flat without having to buy it all. You share ownership with a housing association and rent its share until you can afford to enlarge your stake. And finally, a few lenders will offer 95pc mortgages. Newcastle Building Society offers a two-year fix at 6.25pc interest, with no arrangement fee. And the Leeds has a very good five-year fix at 6.23pc, although you will need to find a fee of £999.

■ If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.

Being switched on can save you in the long run

Knowing your rights as an energy customer can help to keep your bills down. **ADAM AIKEN** reports

WITH the nights drawing in and winter only weeks away, householders are being urged to know their rights when it comes to their domestic fuel supply.

The cost of heating a home is likely to spike during the winter, and with millions of people likely to be struggling to meet their bills, we are being encouraged to find out what extras we could be due.

The first rule all households should follow is to make sure they are on the best tariff. To this end, it is worth shopping around at least every couple of years for the cheapest deals.

But it does not stop there – and Consumer Focus, regulator Ofgem and the energy industry have teamed up to draw attention to your rights.

Every household in the country will receive a booklet over the coming months offering impartial advice.

In the meantime, Consumer Focus has outlined 10 top tips that might help you get a better deal on your gas and electricity.

"Households across the country are worried about their energy bills," said Adam Scorer, director of policy and external affairs at Consumer Focus.

"But the simple fact is many people don't know what their rights are, or where to find help, and they could be losing out as a result.

"We want to help consumers to keep more money in their pocket by putting the information they need at their fingertips.

"The Staying Connected booklet, which will be hitting doormats soon, is an easy reference guide that people can use to help get the most from their energy firm and tackle any problems that may arise."

TOP TIPS

■ You don't have to wait around at home all day for a meter reader or engineer.

If your energy firm needs to visit you at home, you are entitled to a two-hour appointment slot and compensation if it is missed: £20 if it is gas-related, £22 for electricity and £42 for both.

If it has made a mistake and underestimated your bills, your supplier cannot backdate charges for more than a year.

But bear in mind that you can help make sure your bill is correct by giving regular meter readings to your supplier.

This will help prevent a shock should your provider take its own meter reading and find you have been paying too little.

■ Your energy supplier must give you 30 days' notice of any price rises, and it cannot implement an increase if you tell it within 15 working days that you're leaving. It also can't charge fixed-term customers exit fees if they switch within this time.

■ Households can claim compensation for power-cuts from their energy distributors (as opposed to their suppliers).

This is set at a rate of £54 for a power-cut of 18 hours, and £27 for each additional 12 hours without power; or £54 for four or more power-cuts of at least three hours in a year.

■ If you are a pensioner, disabled or chronically sick, you can get help through your supplier's Priority Services Register.

This includes free quarterly meter readings; bills in large print or Braille, or sent to a friend or relative; and a free annual gas safety check for those in receipt of means-tested benefits.

If you switch energy supplier, you have 14 days to change your mind and cancel the switch, without incurring any charges.

■ It should take no longer than five weeks to switch supplier – two weeks for the cooling-off period and three for the switch itself. Suppliers have also committed to make switching hassle-free, so the buck stops with them rather than with you if there any problems.

■ You are entitled to £250 compensation if you are switched to an energy firm without your permission – something known as "slamming". You are also entitled to compensation if you can prove you were deliberately misled by a salesman.

■ If you get into debt, your supplier must agree repayments that are affordable for you. The company cannot set the amount itself.

■ Suppliers offer free insulation to people on low incomes, and this cuts an average of £120 a year off your energy bill.

Many energy companies also offer cash incentives to low-income households that take up the offer of free insulation, and some provide free insulation to other customers, as well.

ENERGY UK – an umbrella group for the gas and electricity industry – said it was aware of the pressure being felt by the many people who struggle to pay their bills while the economy remains bleak.

"Energy companies recognise that the cost of gas and electricity, and a whole range of household bills, is a real concern for people in these difficult financial times," said Christine McGourty, director of communications and public affairs at Energy UK.

"They take their responsibilities to all their customers extremely seriously, and there are a range of schemes in place to help those in particular need, including offers of free or subsidised insulation, as listed in the Staying Connected booklet.

"It's important that all customers know their rights when making any kind of purchase, and energy is no different."

If you think you qualify for any of these extras – or if you have concerns about your energy bill – your first port of call should be your supplier.

But if that gets you nowhere and you want free, impartial advice on your situation, pop along to your local Citizens Advice office.

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High five as Kent companies highlight county economy

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FIVE out of nine winners in the southern category of the Business of the Year awards have come from Kent – showing the strength of the county's commercial sector.

They are all now set to go on to the national finals of the competition, which is aimed at showcasing excellence in business and is organised by the British Chamber of Commerce.

Jacksons Fencing, based in Ashford and celebrating its 65th birthday this year, was named as Business of the Year for the South of England, sponsored by Westfield Health.

The fencing and access control specialist employs almost 200 people across its national operation. It impressed judges with its ability to bounce back from recession through diversification, innovation and excellent customer service.

Nova IT Solutions, with offices in Maidstone and Canterbury, won the Excellence In Customer Service Award, while Rochester-based Minimise walked away with the South East Most Promising New Business title.

The company was established to promote, sell and install energy-saving technologies initially in the UK and then internationally through joint ventures in strategic markets.

MPR IT Solutions, from Ashford, won the Commitment To People Development Award. Judges said the IT services and support business showed outstanding commitment to their staff and customers, resulting in the growth of the business.

FROM LEFT: Jo James, Mark Dance, Dawn Cutler and Paul West of Minimise, MRP's Andy Ransley, Richard Jackson of Jackson and Son, Heather and Roland Novak of Nova and Robert Henning of Quorum

Quorum Technologies, also from Ashford, received the Achievement In International Business title. It has a global client base and is a market-leader in the design and manufacturer of sample preparation equipment for electron microscopy.

Jo James, chief executive of Kent Invicta, said: "It is fantastic that five of the nine regional winners come from Kent – it just goes to show what an entrepreneurial business community we have in our county and I wish them all the best for the national finals in November."

Martyn Pellew, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "There has never been a more important time for businesses to showcase the amazing work they are doing on a day-to-day basis. The Chamber Awards is a perfect platform for them to do just that and receive the recognition and profile they deserve for helping move the economy forward and create employment, often in local areas."

The British Chambers of Commerce Chamber Awards 2012 is committed to finding the best businesses in Britain through a series of regional heats, followed by a national final, due to be held at London's Guildhall on Thursday, November 29.

Mr Pellew said: "A record number of firms have taken part this year, all determined to prove that 'Business is Good for Britain'."

UTILITIES

Water supplier's new affinity to customers

THE water-supplier to customers in Dover and Folkestone has been reorganised and given a new name.

Following the merger of Veolia Water Southeast, Veolia Water Central and Veolia Water East into a single business, its name has been changed to Affinity Water Limited.

Over the coming months, wherever the name Veolia Water appears on bills, vehicles and other communications, it will be replaced with Affinity Water.

The cost of the name change will be met by the company's owners and will not be passed on to customers.

Water charges will continue to be set by the independent regulator, Ofwat.

Chief executive officer Richard Bienfait said: "Our new name, Affinity Water, was chosen to reflect our community-focused company and our passion to deliver a high-quality water service to all of our customers."

BUILDING

Completion of school expansion is good news for children and bats alike

GML Construction has completed a timber-and steel-framed building project for Frittenden Primary School – complete with spaces for bats to breed.

The £890,000 project took 28 weeks and involved working within the constraints of a conservation area.

The construction ensured the project would meet the conservation and budgetary criteria and blend in with the school's appearance.

As part of the project, GML had to make provisions to relocate a site for bats; this had to be monitored throughout the building work.

The new roof design has specially-designed apertures for the bats to come back and live in now the works have been completed.

The aim of the build was to provide the primary school with additional classrooms, new IT facility, kitchen, toilets and a new hall for assemblies and physical-education classes.

The school had previously relied on using its head-teacher's Victorian house and Second World War air-raid shelters for teaching space.

Trevor Barnes, a director of GML Construction, said: "We are thrilled to have completed the contract. We worked hard to design a project that not only met the criteria but which also complemented the existing building infrastructure and its aesthetics.

"One major challenge we faced was to ensure the build caused minimal disruption to the running of the existing school, which was adjacent to the construction activity."

Elizabeth Bradshaw, head-teacher, said: "Over a short time-frame, GML Construction has transformed the facilities at the school.

"We now have more space for the children and vastly-improved facilities.

"The project has been seamlessly added to the existing structure."

SHOW

Speakers and traders get out on the road

SOME of Kent's best business minds gathered at the first B2B Expo at the Ramada Hotel Dover this week.

Organiser Local Business Roadshow brought together speakers as well as local businesses for a display-stand exhibition followed by a set of speeches, hoping to inspire the corporate attendees.

Subjects included an explanation of how businesses can best access the East Kent Expansion Loan as well as giving an overview of routes that companies can follow to grow their trade through investment.

Some of the exhibitors on the day included Burgess Hodgson Accountants, Barclaycard, the Federation of Small Businesses, the Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce and Cascade Print Systems.

For information on the next show, visit www.localbusinessroadshow.com or phone 01304 821 000.

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Federation's fears for fairness of banking compensation scheme

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE compensation system for small firms that have been mis-sold complex financial products has serious failings, the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) has told Chancellor George Osborne.

The federation has cited the example of a Kent hotel company, Castlewood Enterprises, which operates hotels in Folkestone and Canterbury and bought two Interest Rate Swap Agreements (IRSAs) from Barclays Capital in 2007-8.

Since the base rates fell below 3.25 per cent, the business has been penalised with these IRSAs and has been paying a 'kicker rate', which currently amounts to more than £700,000.

The FSB has written to all MPs in Kent to ask that they put pressure on the Chancellor to put a redress system in place that better suits the needs of small firms.

Nationally, the FSB has written to the Chancellor, following a meeting with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) – the independent regulator that devised the system – and says the redress process does not have the confidence of small firms, lacks transparency and will not help those firms affected as quickly as needed.

The FSA's pilot scheme started this autumn and involves 50 claimants from each of the banks. The FSB wants an urgent rethink and says it isn't too late to implement a redress process, totally independent of the banks, that ensures consistency across all cases.

It agreed with the findings of the FSA's report of June 2012 that there was evidence of mis-selling. However, the organisation did not agree with its proposed method of redress, believing that an independent system, run separately from the banks that mis-sold the products, was the best course of action.

The FSB is calling for a system with the following five principles:

- **Scope** Clear and objective rules agreed by the banks, the FSA and the business community, which assesses eligibility and bars those ineligible for compensation at a very early stage.
- **Fair** The scheme must be separate from the banks that mis-sold the products, with a full appeals process if the claimant is turned down to avoid legal action.
- **Swift** Small firms are still paying very high amounts of money for these products, impacting cash-flow and in some cases costing jobs.
- **Transparent** The current scheme does not show the type of transparency that small firms need to ensure they are being treated consistently and fairly.
- **Right to appeal** The appeals process must be clear and not go through the legal routes.

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "This is not the first time we have raised our concerns.

"With 24 hours to go until the pilot scheme starts, we're deeply concerned that, as it stands, the scheme provides no incentive for the banks to go and find the small firms that have been affected to compensate them.

"FSB member Castlewood Enterprises has been arguing with Barcap over the last couple of years; to break the swaps now would cost them in excess of £900,000.

"The views of small firms have been completely ignored in designing the redress process and we've had little response to our concerns from the FSA. The FSB believes the independent system could be implemented as quickly as the FSA's solution and at a lower cost.

"Small firms have been badly affected by the mis-selling of these schemes. However, without the key element of independence, small firms will be deeply sceptical that the very bank that mis-sold the product to them is running its own compensation scheme."

OPEN: Dough Smith and his colleague John Gilbert at the new Ashford depot of DBM

Builders' merchant takes on new name as business grows into a third location

DIRECT Builders Merchants is expanding its network with another site at Wotton Road, Ashford, under a new brand, DBM Cash & Carry Building Depot.

This offers a range of general building materials, including bricks, blocks, paving, bagged aggregates and cement.

"We aim to have more than one million bricks in stock ready to go, with ranges available from all leading manufacturers," said managing director Doug Smith.

"Of course, local delivery will be an option, but our best deals will be for collection."

The new DBM site is at the old RJ Barwick yard in Wotton Road and the move has resulted in the creation of 10 jobs.

DBM has been supplying the building trade and retail customers from its two existing sites at Sittingbourne and Whitstable for more than 20 years.

"We have invested heavily in this new depot, spending in excess of half a million pounds on the acquisition of the site and its refurbishment," said Smith.

"We see Ashford and the surrounding area as the perfect location for our expansion plans, and we are very excited about the potential opportunities which this site offers our business and customers."

OPEN FOR VISITORS: Sevenoaks is encouraging people to spend time and money

Website to boost tourism

SEVENOAKS Town Partnership has appointed VINE Digital to produce its new website in a bid to attract tourism and boost the local economy.

The new website will cover a variety of topics, including event information, eating out, shops and businesses, culture and leisure, young people, local history and tourist information.

Stephen Arnold, chairman of the partnership, said: "With our open meetings having attracted up to 50 people and with shops, organisations and businesses keen to promote themselves, we are confident the new website will have the backing of large sections of the community.

"The site will promote our fantastic town and encourage visitors and residents to spend more of their leisure and shopping time in Sevenoaks and the surrounding areas.

"The website is in addition to other Sevenoaks Town Partnership initiatives. Following generous support from the Sevenoaks Society, we have installed our first site-based digital information screen at Knole Park, with a second to be installed at the Stag theatre.

"In addition, Michael Fallon MP has provided strong support for us to receive Government funding for the 'hop on, hop off' circular-route vintage bus for next summer, an initiative that will encourage visitors and tourists to Knole to extend their visit to our town and enjoy our unique shopping and eating experience."

MP tells Q&A session of his commitment to supporting business

GORDON Henderson, MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, vowed to continue his commitment business when he visited Kent Science Park for a question-and-answer session with local company-owners.

He spoke on a range of subjects, including the reduction of unemployment in Sittingbourne and Sheppey, which has dropped for the last five months.

He said: "We have seen unemployment in the borough reduce for the fifth month running, and last month saw Swale achieve the largest reduction in unemployment in Kent. There are a number of factors that this could be attributed to, including the fact we're seeing a number of companies expanding locally."

The MP also spoke about his commitment to help businesses on a local level and the Government's commitment to help businesses on a national level.

He discussed a bill going through Parliament that will help businesses to secure infrastructure loans, as well as the good work he felt the Government had already done to reduce the economic deficit.

"In the two-and-a-half years we have been in government, we have reduced the deficit by 25 per cent," said Henderson.

"There are things the Government would like to do to help businesses but can't due to finances. That said, in the same way that I work on a local level to try to help businesses, the Government is working to help businesses nationally.

"The Government does not have money to fund infrastructure, but we do have a very good credit rating, making it cheaper for us to borrow money – we want to use this to act as guarantor to private companies looking to develop infrastructure."

SPEAKING UP: MP Gordon Henderson answers questions

Training, courses and careers

Apprentice trio's award success at capital think tank

A TRIO from Bexley have won prizes at the London Borough Apprenticeship awards, with the council being shortlisted for three out of four categories.

Lucy Smethurst, Josh Harris, and Katie Demuth were all recognised for the achievements at a ceremony held by think tank London Councils.

All three are at different stages of their apprenticeship at the council, but all scooped prizes for their progress over the past year.

Lucy Smethurst, 24, won best manager after supporting and guiding a new generation of apprentices into the world of employment. She started at the council as an apprentice back in 2004.

Josh Harris won the best progression of an apprentice award, after the 21-year-old progressed to a level four apprenticeship following working on a wide range of projects including the chief executive's blog, and increasing efficiency within council departments.

And 18-year-old Katie Demuth finished runner up in the best contribution category after she became the council's first level three management apprentice in just under a year.

Bexley council deputy leader and cabinet member for finance and corporate services Cllr Colin Campbell said: "Congratulations and well done to Lucy, Josh and Katie – their awards are well deserved.

"We are extremely proud of them, of all our apprentices, and the managers who support them through their learning journey."

The awards were presented to the winners by London Councils' executive member for children and young people and employment and skills, Cllr Steve Reed.

A blooming good show as mother sets up business

A BUSY mum of one has started up her own floristry business after studying the craft with Medway Community Learning.

Vicky Pizer from Gillingham has completed three floristry courses at Rochester Community Hub, and has since set up Petals & Bows.

The courses taught her how to do flower arrangements for events such as weddings and funerals, and she decided to set up a business which incorporated her new hobby.

She put together her first wedding flowers for a work colleague recently, and said she was delighted with the response.

Ms Pizer said: "It was a huge relief when I'd completed all the bouquets and table decorations. The colour scheme was unusual – orange and blue – and the budget was open, so it was really fun to do.

"I love flowers and I hope this business will enable me to have a better work-life balance and spend more time with my little boy."

She also praised her tutor Edyta Busko-Mokone, saying: "She is a fantastic tutor and offered me really good guidance for the start of my business.

"She's always there, even when the course has finished, and that's reassuring."

To sign up to a course, visit www.medway.gov.uk/educationandlearning/adultlearning.aspx for more information.

Chartered accountants do their sums to come up with training value

A CHARTERED accountancy firm in Canterbury has announced a new trainee scheme which will see eight young people achieve professional qualifications in the field.

Burgess Hodgson will team up with educational organisation BPP to talk to school leavers and recent graduates and help them take the first steps to becoming a successful accountant.

BPP will deliver academic training to the youngsters from its Maidstone base, while Burgess Hodgson hands out practical experience.

Senior partner at the Canterbury-based company Steve Sutton said: "Training has always been a cornerstone of our business, and we encourage excellence from those entering the profession all the way through to those of us who have been practicing for longer.

"The world of accounting is changing; it is not just about passing exams; the demands are more challenging, and we are always looking to add value for our clients."

And Mr Sutton added that despite the deal with BPP proving to be more expensive than other training competitors, he insisted it was the right deal for all parties.

He said: "BPP was by no means the cheapest option open to us, but you've got to invest in the right areas, and we were focusing on quality. If you don't get your employee training right, then you don't have a future as a business.

"The old adage is that accountants know the price of everything and the value of nothing. There's no doubt we're very aware of the price, but we like to think we can identify value too."

The two companies have worked with each other for 10 years and said the agreement is beneficial for both parties – but more importantly for the trainees.

BPP managing director Stuart Whent said: "Burgess Hodgson and BPP are a good fit – we both continually strive for improvement and excellence in our business, and are passionate about investing in training and educating young people in this profession, especially in the current economic environment.

"It is a pleasure to work with such a committed and forward-thinking organization, and we look forward to welcoming the trainees."

Over the past year, 100 per cent of students have passed their accountancy exams under the guidance of BPP, whilst the national rate is around 70 per cent

SUPPORT: Steve Sutton of Burgess Hodgson says the BPP pairing is beneficial

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817136.

College teams up with Gills to help get county's youngsters on the ball

A KENT college has joined forces with Gillingham FC to help guide youngsters into football related careers.

The partnership between North West Kent College and the league club is set to give students the opportunity to develop their skills under UEFA licensed coaches, as well as helping them to obtain a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ).

The course will be held at Gillingham's Priestfield Stadium and training ground, and will start on November 5.

North West Kent College promises to "give students the chance to train in a real football environment".

Academic director of sport and leisure Chris Lydon said: "This partnership is to identify talented young players and developing them to become the coaches of the future."

The partnership with the League Two club is part of the college's autumn fast track programme, which looks to help young people who feel they have made the wrong choice about education to get back into learning.

Some seven units will be covered in the course and all promote health and working with others.

Entry requirements are two GCSEs at D grade or above, as well as a willingness to become involved in all aspects of sport – including the theory.

It is expected the course will be popular, and those interested can contact North West Kent College on 0800 074 1447.

GUIDE: Gillingham FC has teamed up with North West Kent College to help young people train to become football coaches

Schools & education

sponsored by KENT ADULT EDUCATION

Student looks to make a big impression at science event

A STUDENT from a Canterbury school has won a place in the final of a prestigious science competition.

George Edwards from the King's School has bagged a spot in the finals of the national science and engineering competition after he excelled at a regional heat.

He will go head-to-head with other youngsters from across the country next March in a bid to win the highly sought award at the ExCeL Centre in London.

The 16-year-old progressed to the national final after winning the Canterbury heat with an anti-terrorism car park barrier project.

George said: "The national science and engineering competition has taken me on an amazing journey, and I've definitely got my sights on the big prize while at the Big Bang Fair in London next March.

"The best and most important discoveries and inventions are down to science and engineering, and this contest has helped me to realise that I want to be a part of that in the future."

WELL DONE: King's School's George Edwards receives his award

The competiton is organised by the British Science Association (BSA), and there is still a chance for students to win a place at the event next year.

Organisers are still looking for entries for their young engineer and young scientist of the year awards, and there are hopes George's success will help nurture future talent.

BSA chief executive Sir Roland Jackson said: "We're thrilled that George has got through as a regional finalist and wish him all the best for the national finals at the Big Bang Fair in London.

"This project really caught our imagination and we hope that it inspires other young people to enter the competition too."

The national science and engineering contest is now in its fifth year and gives students the opportunity to show off their projects at their own exhibition stand.

Sir Roland added: "The competition offers a great incentive to get youngsters experimenting and having fun with science and engineering."

Construction company helps build up pupils' maths skills out of class

CONSTRUCTION company Denne has been helping maths students to take their numerical skills into the real world.

Pupils at the Hartsdown Academy in Margate have been benefiting from sessions held by construction workers about how to use their maths skills in practical problem-solving challenges.

Sessions are been held after the academy agreed a year-long business partnership with Denne.

The year nine group's first task was to create a tower block of flats to scale using Lego bricks.

Although more difficult than it sounds, the group managed to work together and construct the tower in under 15 minutes.

Maths teacher Phil Vella said: "The students applied their knowledge to work out the correct angles and positions of the bricks and the tower. They looked at efficiency and cost and what sort of surface area it would need.

"The tower design needed proper use of bricks to ensure stability.

"We had some pretty tall towers created inside the 15 minute build time limit."

Hartsdown staff are hopeful that the weekly construction challenges will make the subject fun for pupils, and encourage more of them to use their maths skills outside of the classroom.

School's new winter vegetable crop will give its youngsters food for thought

FOOD technology students have been digging for glory as they prepare for winter vegetable growing season.

Homegrown produce will be used by pupils in various lessons at the Ellington and Hereson School in Ramsgate after a school garden was tidied for the season.

Root vegetables, including carrots and onions, can now be grown at the school after Skillsforce students helped to prepare the area for planting.

Volunteers from the vocational education charity cleared the plots and raised beds, while also tidying a large greenhouse to ensure it could be used.

Staff at the Ramsgate school believe the garden will prove to be a central part of the school community. It is located in the science courtyard.

There are also hopes the work carried out by Skillsforce students will be beneficial to the school.

Assistant headteacher Loraine Bant said: "It was a tough task, but they dug in and we now have a lovely resource.

"Vegetables will be used in the food department and we can also use plants for investigation in our science learning."

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East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital
Ramsgate Road
Margate
Kent CT9 4BG

Telephone: 01843 234556
Fax: 01843 296333

E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

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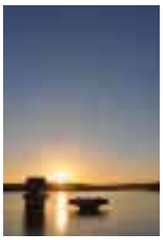

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Public Appointments

Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:.

Hourly-paid Lecturer in ICT — **Ref: SESS**

Hourly rate: £23.44 - £27.22 (dependent on qualifications and experience)
Maidstone Campus

The College is looking for an energetic, enthusiastic and forward-thinking individual who has both industry knowledge of, and the ability to teach a range of subjects within our current range of BTEC IT qualifications up to Level 3. This might include: hardware, networking, programming, systems support, games design, animation or other discipline within our curriculum area. An effective team player, you will have excellent communication skills and be eager to innovate, respond flexibly to industry demands and contribute to the development of the IT curriculum area. The successful candidate must have at least a level 3 qualification or equivalent in a Computing related subject with a Cert Ed/PGCE teaching qualification or have a willingness to undertake a formal teaching qualification to required national standards. Recent experience of teaching young people up to Level 3 would be advantageous.

Youth Worker Apprentices x 2, full time — **Ref: P0165, P0166**

Medway and Maidstone

We are currently seeking two energetic and professional young people to enhance our youth work offer at the college to provide students with opportunities to build their own skills, develop on and offsite activities and participate in college enrichment opportunities such as sport, Duke of Edinburgh and volunteering. You will be fully supported through the college Student Support team and day to day mentoring, support and guidance will be with the college Youth Worker and Students' Union. On a day to day basis you will cross all departments in the college to ensure engagement by students and staff. You will be expected to work across our two main campuses; Medway and Maidstone. The core hours will be 8.30am-5pm Mon - Fri with occasional evening and weekend work You will undertake a recognised Youth Work qualification in order to achieve your apprenticeship. **Training allowance:** £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.

Apprentice in Business Administration, full time — **Ref: P0164**

Medway Campus

We are looking for an enthusiastic individual who will benefit from gaining their first NVQ Qualification whilst working in our Student Support Department. The successful candidate will work towards the apprenticeship framework including a relevant NVQ Level within Business Administration. **Training allowance:** £6,314 per annum plus reward bonus upon successful completion of the NVQ Qualification.

Lecturer in Functional Skills, part time permanent — **Ref: P0300**

Salary: £26,336 - £30,118 per annum, pro rata (dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway Campus

The College is seeking to appoint an exceptional candidate to participate in the delivery of Functional and Skills for Life qualifications across the Construction and Services Engineering Faculty. The successful candidate will be willing to organise and lead the delivery of learning activities and contribute to the development of Functional Skills across the Faculty. The ideal candidate will have experience of teaching Vocational Skills and Functional Skills and hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification

Closing date: 18th October 2012

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

12/02393/HOUSE Paper Mill Oast Hinksden Road, Benenden
- Two-storey side extension with balcony to south elevation and single storey link to existing store for use as office/store (LB)

12/02683/LBC Burtons Crook Road, Brenchley
- Listed Building Consent - Demolition of low level chimney stack down to eaves level; Rebuilding of stack in stock bricks (unpainted) with lead tray and flashings; Making good to any damp affected roof timbers; Adding a flue liner for new woodburning stove set into fire recess with new stone hearth, relocating radiator and making good (LB)

12/02626/FUL 103 Mount Pleasant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden
- Change of use from Amusement centre to Insurance Brokers office (A2) (CA)

12/02705/FUL Lakeview Bishops Down Park Road, Culverden
- Demolition of existing block of flats; Erection of 5 No. 3-bed duplex apartments, 2 No. 2-bed apartments and 2 No. 3-bed penthouse apartments (CA)

12/02725/TELN5 Mount Pleasant House 4 - 6 Lonsdale Gardens, Culverden
- Telecommunication notification - installation of flex BTS modules within flexi stack measuring 490mm x 560mm x 577mm (CA)

12/02723/FUL Wagtail Farm Jarvis Lane, Goudhurst
- Replacement dwelling (PROW)

12/02704/HOUSE Keepers Cottage Delmonden Lane, Hawkhurst
- Conversion of detached garage into summerhouse; Retrospective - Pergola attached to rear of detached garage; Retrospecitve - Three garden lights (LB)

12/02656/HOUSE 1 Sion Walk Mount Sion, Pantiles & St Marks
- Internal conversion of garage to form kitchen, with original steel garage door retained (LB) (CA)

12/02701/FUL Nevill House 15 Nevill Street, Pantiles & St Marks
- Change of use of ground floor office to shop use (retrospective) (CA)

12/02370/FUL Calverley Park Crescent Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Hinged metal gates of mild steel construction, matching design of the boundary rails and rear gates to properties from Crescent Road, at the Carrs Corner entrance (LB) (CA)

12/02670/HOUSE 10 Mountfield Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Park
- Single storey rear extension (CA)

12/02511/LBC Castlegate Bodiam Road, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent - Repair of frost damaged brickwork to chimney and replacement of damaged listings with lead flashings (LB)

12/02593/FUL Tilbrook Cottage Megrims Hill, Sandhurst
- Boarding kennels, change of use of stables to reception with two kennels and extension of parking area (LB)

12/02657/FUL Somerden Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Demolition of house and garage and construction of 5 bedroom house with double garage and surface parking/access drive (CA)

12/02668/FUL Holmewood House School Barrow Lane, Speldhurst
- Removal of existing rendered panels below windows to orangery and replacement below fixed lights with new painted timber panels or with new doors in lieu of casements (LB)

12/02672/LBC Holmewood House School Barrow Lane, Speldhurst
- Listed building consent - removal of existing rendered panels below windows to orangery and replacement below fixed lights with new painted timber panels or with new doors in lieu of casements (LB)

12/02681/HOUSE Birchett Meads Langton Road, Speldhurst
- Extension, alterations and loft conversion (CA)

12/02720/FULMJ Land & Buildings Between 73 - 87 Goods Station Road, St James
- Minor Material Amendments to TW/04/00048 FULMJ Demolition of existing buildings; Construct 28 No. new residential units in 3 blocks all on 2 and a half storeys; Block 1: 3 no. 3-bed houses; Block 2: 1 No. studio flat, 8 no. 1-bed flats, 9 no. 2-bed flats; Block 3: 3 no. 1-bed flats, 4 No. 2-bed flats. Changes to approved plans to parking layout, bin storage and bicycle storage arrangements and for amendments to the elevations of Blocks 2 and 3 (MAJOR)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 13 October 2012

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/1452/N - 10/11 , MARKET BUILDINGS, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1HP - Change of use of first floor to tattoo studio. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/12/1503/S - PLOT 5 LAND AT, LUGHORSE LANE, HUNTON, KENT - Change of use of land to provide two plots for gypsy travellers, including the stationing of two mobile homes, two touring caravans and two dayrooms. **Reason: 7**

MA/12/1554/S - HEADCORN HALL, BIDDENDEN ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9JD - Demolition of existing property Headcorn Hall and associated outbuildings and erection of 10 detached houses; creation of new vehicular access via Shenley Road and provision of access road and associated landscaping. **Reason: 6, 9**

MA/12/1725/S - CRABTREE BARN STAPLEHURST CAR SALES, CRADDUCKS LANE, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 0DR - Erection of an oak framed 6 bay garage with 1 bed flat above to provide live/work property with existing buildings on site to be removed. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1727/S - 10, BUCKLAND ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0SL - Variation of conditions 1 and 5 of application MA/11/1090 (Change of use of land to a hand car wash) to allow the use to continue until 30th November 2014 and to change the operating hours to 8am to 6pm on Mondays to Saturdays and 9am to 5pm on Sundays and Bank Holidays. **Reason: 1**

MA/12/1760/N - 24, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5BH - Listed building consent for alterations/refurbishment to fenestration detail including the insertion of rooflights and rear dormer window and internal alterations to facilitate the conversion of building into 4(no) self contained flats. **Reason: 3**

MA/12/1761/N - 24, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 5BH - Conversion of building into 4(no) self contained flats including insertion of rooflights and rear dormer window. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **28th October 2012**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 14th October 2012

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/01610/FUL: 21 West Cliff, Whitstable, CT5 1DN Replacement of bay window. **Applicant: Dr Harbord** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01662/FUL: Recreation Ground, Summer Lane, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9LY Erection of new play equipment. **Applicant: Management Committee of Tyler Hill Memorial Hall** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01686/FUL: 110 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5EB Alterations to form new shop frontage. **Applicant: Shoe Zone Limited** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01690/ADV: 110 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5EB Non-illuminated fascia and projecting signs. **Applicant: Shoe Zone Limited** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01692/FUL: Chaucer House, Kake Street, Waltham, CT4 5SB Extension and alterations to riding-school building to provide self-contained holiday letting unit. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Crawford** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01702/FUL: Land at Gordon Road, Canterbury, CT1 3PP Erection of a block of one three-bed, five one-bed flats and a block of eight maisonettes (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr P Bowler** Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA//12/01714/ADV: 15 St Dunstans Street, Canterbury, CT2 8AF Non-illuminated fascia and illuminated hanging sign to front elevation (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr Dari** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01715/FUL: Land at Farleigh Road, Canterbury Proposed residential development consisting of 10 town houses, one flat and one duplex apartment. **Applicant: Ladydown Ltd** Reason: Major development.
CA//12/01726/FUL: 1A and 1B Beach Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5PW Replacement of timber sliding sash windows with uPVC sliding sash windows. **Applicant: Mr J Masterton-Copley** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01729/LB: Ford Manor Farm, Ford Hill, Hoath, CT3 4LS Internal and external alterations to facilitate conversion of oast house to residential use. **Applicant: J E Batchelor & Partners** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01732/FUL: 78A Canterbury Road, Whitstable, CT5 4HE Single-storey extensions to front and rear of dwelling and construction of dormer window to rear roofslope. **Applicant: Mrs Scannell** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01735/FUL: 8 Borstal Hill, Whitstable, CT5 4LX Replacement windows, installation of additional window to rear extension and increase height of boundary wall. **Applicant: Robert Mumby Architects** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01738/FUL: 33 Douglas Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AF Erection of replacement porch, replacement of flat roof with pitched roof, replacement windows and doors, construction of two metre high boundary fence adjacent to Douglas Road and provision of additional hardsurfacing in connection with the widening of the existing vehicular access. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Speare** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01741/FUL: Lavender Cottage, Marley Lane, Hoath, CT3 4JY Erection of porch to side of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr T Baker** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01744/CAC: Land at Gordon Road, Canterbury, CT1 3PP Demolition of industrial building to facilitate redevelopment of the site (revised scheme). **Applicant: Mr P Bowler** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//12/01753/FUL: 34 Joy Lane, Whitstable, CT5 4LT Retention of gates and fencing adjacent to a highway and formation of vehicular access. **Applicant: Mr D Harnett** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01757/FUL: 63 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JZ Single-storey rear extension. **Applicant: Miss Dellaway** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01758/LB: 28 Dover Street, Canterbury, CT1 3HQ Replacement of timber windows with double glazed timber windows. **Applicant: Mrs Kalideen** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//12/01764/FUL: 149 Island Wall, Whitstable, CT5 1DY Rooflight to front of dwelling, replacement of roof covering (retrospective) and provision of permeable paved area to front of porch. **Applicant: Mrs Dod** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//12/01765/FUL: 11 Green Leas, Chestfield, CT5 3JY Conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Little** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 5 November 2012.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 12 October 2012

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Public Notice

14 October 2012

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Audit of accounts 2011/12

Notice of certification of completion of audit

Public notice is hereby given that under Regulation 11 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 the District Auditor has completed the audit of the above accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012.

An unqualified opinion and the audit certificate on the accounts were issued by the District Auditor on 25 September 2012. On the same date, the District Auditor issued an unqualified conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money as required by the Audit Commission's Code of Practice. The Auditor has not identified any issues of public interest to report under Section 8 of the Audit Commission Act 1998.

In accordance with Section 14 of the 1998 Act, any local government elector for the area may:

- inspect and make copies of the statement of accounts
- ask the authority for a copy of the statement of accounts.

The statement of accounts is available for inspection by any local government elector for the area at Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW, on weekdays (excluding public holidays) between 8.30am and 5pm. The accounts can also be found at **www.canterbury.gov.uk/assets/finance/statementofaccounts2012.pdf**

Colin Carmichael
Chief Executive
Canterbury City Council
Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW

PLANNING

Folkestone

Shepway District Council
Audit of Accounts 2011/12

The audit of Shepway District Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2012 has been concluded. An unqualified opinion on the Statement of Accounts was given on 28 September 2012 in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Audit Commission's Code of Practice, together with a certificate.

Any local government elector for the Shepway area is entitled to inspect and make copies of the Statement of Accounts or have copies sent to them and is entitled to inspect and make copies of the Audit Commission's report to Shepway District Council.

The Statement of Accounts is available for inspection at the Civic Centre, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY between 9.00am and 4.30pm (Telephone:01303 853238) or can be downloaded from the Council's website www.shepway.gov.uk

Kathryn Beldon
Deputy Chief Executive

5 October 2012

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y12/0870/SH - 1 - 2 Guildhall Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1DY - Installation of windows to side elevation & display of crest to front elevation.

Y12/0871/SH - 1 - 2 Guildhall Street Folkestone Kent CT20 1DY - Listed building consent for the installation of windows to side elevation, display of crest to front elevation & internal subdivision on ground floor.

Y12/0888/SH# - Frostland Villa Newchurch Romney Marsh Kent TN29 0DZ - Erection of a two storey front extension.

Y12/0890/SH# - Playing Field Rear Newchurch Village Hall Newchurch Lane Newchurch Kent - Removal of overhanging branches of two Willow trees situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0742/SH - The Leas (opposite Monument House) Folkestone Kent - Erection of a stainless steel arch with associated decorative paving and seating area with planting.

Y12/0887/SH* - 1 Vicarage Lane Elham Canterbury Kent CT4 6TT - Erection of a single storey rear extension and two storey side extension

Y12/0892/SH - Hythe Lawn Tennis Club The Grove Hythe Kent - Construction of 4 all weather macadam tennis courts to replace old grass courts, together with associated floodlighting and landscaping.

Y12/0838/SH* - Eversley College & Eversley Lodge Coolinge Lane Folkestone Kent CT20 3QS - Change of use and conversion of boarding college/school (Class C2) building to form 23 apartments, including alteration and extension of building, erection of associated detached two storey building to provide cycle storage with separate apartment above, erection of 18 two and three storey dwellings on part of college/school playing field with associated access, garages and parking, erection of single and two storey extensions to existing detached lodge building in connection with use as a dwelling, use of part of playing field to provide car parking and playing field areas for Sandgate Primary School and provision of parking and communal garden areas to apartments/dwellings.

Y12/0861/SH - Dundas Farm Big Pett Elmsted Ashford Kent - Listed building consent for relocation of existing metal flue and erection of brick slip clad GRP cover to modern extension.

Y12/0878/SH+ - Hermitage House Hermitage Close Hythe Kent CT21 6HZ - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising of the pruning of a Cherry tree and a Bay tree.

Y12/0877/SH+ - 25 Hillside Street Hythe Kent CT21 5EJ - 2 metre partial crown lift of a Medlar tree situated within a conservation area.

Y12/0875/SH+ - Hillside Manor 5 Hillside Street Hythe Kent CT21 5DL - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising of the felling of a Holly (T1) and a Yew (T3) followed by the planting of replacement trees, felling of a group of self set Elders (T4) and a 6 metre crown lift of a Lime (T2).

Y12/0883/SH - Folkestone Library 2 Grace Hill Folkestone Kent CT20 1HD - Listed building consent to replace metal side gates.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Folkestone

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13(3) OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND REGULATION 16 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2011 - APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION ACCOMPANIED BY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Proposed development at: Folkestone Harbour and Seafront, Folkestone, Kent

I give notice that the Folkestone Harbour Company is applying to Shepway District Council for: Outline planning permission with all matters (access, scale, layout, appearance, landscaping) reserved for the redevelopment of the harbour and seafront to provide a comprehensive mixed use development comprising up to 1000 dwellings (C3), up to 10,000 square metres of commercial floorspace including A1, A3, A4, A5, B1, D1 and D2 uses as well as seasports and beach sports facilities. Improvements to the beaches, pedestrian and cycle routes and accessibility into, within and out of the seafront and harbour, together with associated parking.

The application constitutes EIA development and is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

- The application (**Y12/0897/SH**)
- The plans
- The environmental statement
- Other documents submitted with the application

at SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL, CIVIC CENTRE, CASTLE HILL AVENUE, FOLKESTONE, KENT during the hours of 8.30 am - 5.00 pm weekdays except Wednesday 9.30 am - 5.00 pm.

Or online at http://www.shepway.gov.uk/content/view/200376/203/.

Members of the public can download an electronic copy of the Environmental Statement from the above website. However paper copies can be purchased directly from the applicant on payment of £200.00 for a paper copy or £30 for a CD version at the following address: Mr D Hulme, Folkestone Harbour Company, Port Office, Folkestone Harbour, Folkestone, CT20 1QH.

Anyone who wishes to make representation can do so in writing to the Council at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY, via the above website or by e-mail to planning@shepway.gov.uk ensuring you include your full postal address and quoting the application number within a period of 21 days commencing on the date of publication of the notice.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 22 OCTOBER 2012

SW/12/1087:
2 storey addition above existing ground floor addition to provide enlarged accommodation for 2 existing flats - 15 High Street, Blue Town, SHEERNESS; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1182:
Temporary stationing of a mobile home - Hooks Hole Farm, Chestnut Street, BORDEN; **REASON 2**

SW/12/1183:
Temporary stationing of 3 mobile homes - The Old Chalk Quarry, Hooks Hole Farm, Chestnut Street, BORDEN; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1186 &
SW/12/1187:
Remove existing fire escape stairs; erect balcony to rear; replace existing fire door with new door to match window proportions - 39 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/12/1188:
Redevelopment of site for Extra Care scheme comprising a three storey block of flats made up of 38 no: two bed flats and 13 no: one bedrooms flats (51 in total) including front and rear entrance lobbies, receptions area, lounge, activity room, cafe and hair/therapy (all allowing public access), kitchen, laundry and offices. Provision of 21 no: parking bays (including 2 no:disabled) and communal rear landscaped garden - Wyllie Court, Attlee Way, Milton Regis, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **The Hussar Hotel, 219 Canterbury Road, Margate**

Applicant: **Mr Renny Dobbs**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the grant of an approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this notice. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Cath Anley
Head of Libraries, Registration and Archives
Kent History and Library Centre
James Whatman Way
Maidstone, ME14 1LQ

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM40 IN THE PARISH OF EAST FARLEIGH

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KM40 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath KM40, for its entire length, between Workhouse Lane (near Stockett Lane) and between Franklins Cottages / Dane Lodge Barn, Workhouse Lane (NGR TQ 742 520) from the 29th October 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before January 2013.

The path will be closed for drainage works and the operation of heavy machinery and this will pose a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Olivia Bonham

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

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NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH597 IN THE PARISH OF HEADCORN

PUBLIC FOOTPATH KH597 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath KH597, between the junctions with Public Footpath KH599 (at the rear of St Peter & St Paul's Church) and the junction with Public Footpath KH600 (NGR TQ 830 439) from the 1st November 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen on 5th November 2012.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on the railway line and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact John Pelham

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF THANET

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY TE8A (PART), ST NICHOLAS AT WADE) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on the 9th October 2012 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public bridleway numbered TE8A that commences from the unaffected part of public bridleway TE8A, NGR TR2492 6701 (Point A on the Order Plan), and passes for 355 metres in a south south easterly direction to a connection with Belle Isle Road, NGR TR2513 6675, (Point B on the Order Plan).

A new length of public bridleway will be added numbered TE8A that commences from the unaffected part of public bridleway TE8A, NGR TR2492 6701 (Point A on the Order Plan), and passes in a west south westerly direction for 42 metres, then turning south south easterly for 208 metres to a new connection with public bridleway TE9, NGR TR2497 6680 (Point C on the Order Plan). The new length of path will have a width of 3 metres.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Thanet District Council, Thanet Gateway Plus, Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1RE or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Colin Finch at the address below before 14th November 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that objections/representations cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain. Copies of any objections or representations received may be disclosed to interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER

HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY TE9 (PART), ST NICHOLAS AT WADE) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

The above named Order made on the 9th October 2012 under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of public bridleway

numbered TE9 that commences from the unaffected part of public bridleway TE9, NGR TR2474 6661 (Point A on the Order Plan), and passes for 342 metres in a south westerly direction to the unaffected part of public bridleway TE9, NGR TR2442 6649, (Point B on the Order Plan).

A new length of public bridleway will be added numbered TE9 that commences from the unaffected part of public bridleway TE9, NGR TR2474 6661 (Point A on the Order Plan), and passes in a south westerly direction for 132 metres then turning in a north, north westerly direction for 101 metres before finally turning again in a south westerly direction for 211 metres to the unaffected part of public bridleway TE9, NGR TR2442 6649, (Point B on the Order Plan). The new length of path will have a width of 3 metres.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Thanet District Council, Thanet Gateway Plus, Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1RE or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order may be sent in writing to Colin Finch at the address below before 14th November 2012. Please state the grounds on which they are made.

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If no such representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TONBRIDGE & MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR115

IN THE PARISH OF EAST MALLING & LARKFIELD

PUBLIC FOOTPATH MR115 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath MR115 between Teston Road and NGR TQ 692 553 from the 1st November 2012.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path will be closed because there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Michele Snoding

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC2 / WT344 IN THE PARISHES OF GOUDHURST & HORSMONDEN

PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC2 / WT344 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath WC2 / WT344, between the junction with Public Footpath WT342 (NGR TQ 721 408) and the junction with Public Footpath WC6 (NGR TQ 726 406) from 2nd October 2012

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months.

The path is closed because the bridge has collapsed. Work is in hand to install a replacement but may take several months to complete.

The alternative route is via Public Footpaths WC6, WC3, WT343 and WT344 and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Jonathan Bibby

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

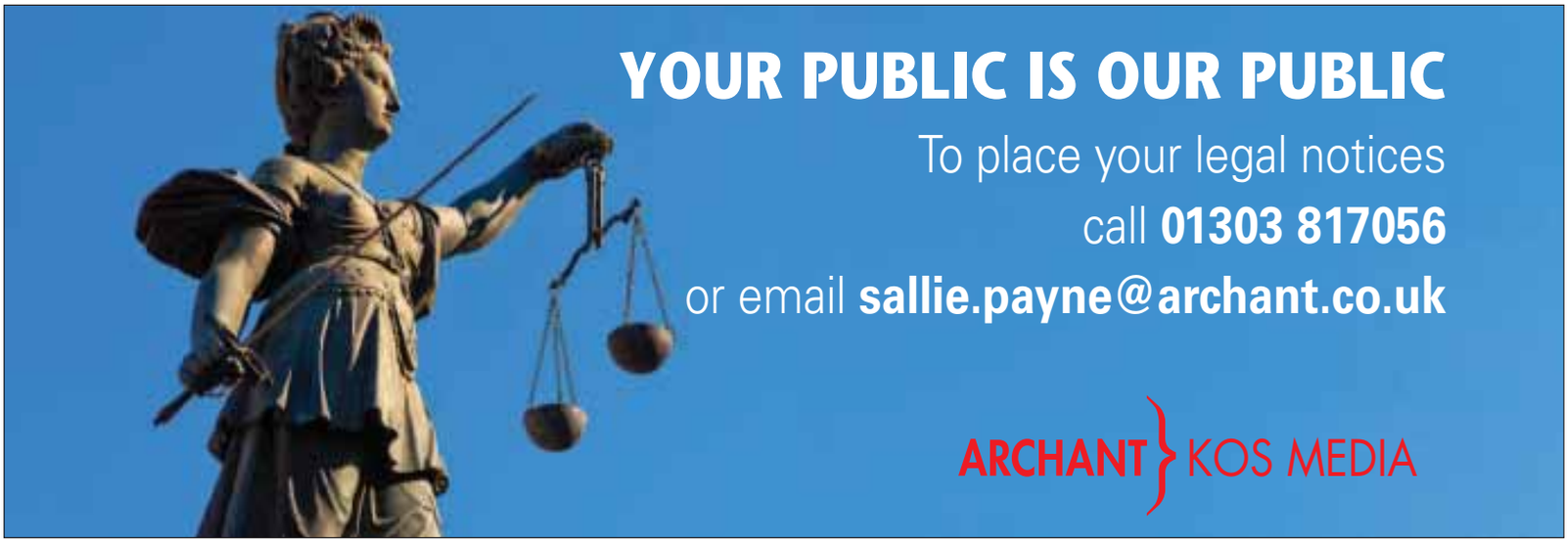
http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX **Dated: 14th October 2012**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council



HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

BLACKWALL ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blackwall Road, Ashford, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Blackwall Road North and Goodcheap Lane.

The alternative route is via Blackwall Road South, A2070 Kennington Road, The Street, Hinxhill Road, Naccolt Road, Blackwall and Blackwall Road

CHURCH ROAD, SEVINGTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Road, Sevington, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the west of the junction with Cheeseman's Green Lane.

The alternative route is via Highfield Road, A20 Hythe Road, Willesborough Interchange, B2070 Bad Munstereifel Road and Church Road.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BURGATE LANE, CANTERBURY (RESTRICTIONS ON TRAFFIC & PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow the safe use of a mobile crane to replace air-conditioning units on adjacent buildings, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic and pedestrians on Burgate Lane, Canterbury, on or after 29 October 2012 overnight from 11.45 pm through until 6.00 am, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Burgate.

There is no alternative route, as such. Local businesses and residents have been informed.

There will also be some restrictions for traffic and pedestrians into Burgate, at the junction with Burgate Lane.

EDDINGTON LANE, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 10 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Eddington Lane, Eddington Way, A2990 Thanet Way and B2205 Canterbury Road.

The road will be closed in phases, working from the junction with Canterbury Road as far as the bridge near Eddington Way. The closures will be between the various side roads, with access to the side roads maintained.

Progress with the works will depend on weather and ground conditions, and the extent of the closures will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

ESSEX STREET & KENT STREET, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of phone cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Essex Street and Kent Street, Whitstable, at their junctions with Harwich Street, as shown below.

ESSEX STREET will be closed from 15 October 2012 for 1 (or possibly 2) days.

The alternative route is via Essex Street, Forge Lane and Canterbury Road.

KENT STREET will be closed from 16 or 17 October (once Essex Street re-opened) for 1 (or possibly 2) days.

The alternative route is via Forge Lane and Essex Street.

The closure of Kent Street will follow that of Essex Street, as advised locally and signposted on site.

The closures are for 1-2 days each, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

HARDRES COURT ROAD, UPPER HARDRES (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of safety-related carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hardres Court Road, Upper Hardres, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 3 days, between 8.00 am and 5.00 pm each day.

The road will be closed from the junction with Bow Hill to a point approximately 20 metres south of the junction with Broxhall Road.

The alternative route is via Hardres Court Road, B2068 Faussett Hill, Street End, Stone Street, Curtis Lane, Bossingham Road, The Street and Hardres Court Road.

JUBILEE ROAD, LITTLEBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Jubilee Road, Littlebourne, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 5 days, between 8.00 am and 4.30 pm.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A257 High Street, Nargate Street and Church Road.

MIDDLE WALL, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Middle Wall, Whitstable, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 74, with no access for through traffic between the entrance to the car park and the junction with Waterloo Road.

The alternative routes are

Southbound via Middle Wall, B2205 High Street and Terry's Lane.

Northbound via Terry's Lane, B2205 Horsebridge Road, Sea Street, Harbour Street and High Street.

A290 WHITSTABLE ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 198 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new Zebra Crossing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on A290 Whitstable Road, Canterbury, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of 18 & 20, with no through access between Forty Acres Road and Ramsey Close.

The alternative route is via A290 Whitstable Road, St Thomas Hill, Whitstable Road, Rough Common Road, Palmers Cross Hill, A2050 Harbledown Bypass and London Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

PRINCES AVENUE, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFI (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Princes Avenue, Dartford, on or after 29th October 2012 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Princes Road.

The alternative route is via Princes Road, Gore Road, Lundale Road, Princes Avenue.

B2174 PRINCES ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carrying out resurfacing works and to provide adequate protection for the work force , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2174 Princes Road , on or after 18 October 2012 for up to 14 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed 170 m west of Heath Lane Lower Road to 120m east of Heath Lane Lower Road.

The alternative route is via westbound A225 Lowfield Street, A226 Instone Road, Highfield Road, West Hill and A2018 Shepherds Lane Eastbound A2018 Shepherds Lane, West Hill, A226 Westgate Road, Home Gardens and A225 Lowfield Street .

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

COOMBE LANE, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coombe Lane, Ash, on or after 17 October 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between Coombe Vineyard and Coombe Cottage, with no through access.

The alternative route is via Moat Lane, The Street, New Street and Coombe Lane.

MILL LANE, PRESTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, Preston, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length (i.e. between the junctions with Longmete Road and The Street.

The alternative route is via Longmete Road and The Street.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESEND AREA

ABBEY ROAD, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 198 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Gas main replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Abbey Road, Gravesend, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 18 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at its junction with Old Road East, Gravesend.

The alternative route is via Bellman Avenue, Rochester Road and Old Road East.

FORGE LANE, HIGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Resurfacing works in scope with S278 works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Forge Lane, Higham at its junction with A226 Gravesend Road, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via:

Westbound - Forge Lane, Villa Road and A226 Gravesend Road.

Eastound - Gravesend Road, Villa Road, School Lane and Hermitage Road.

HALL ROAD NORTHFLEET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of High friction resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hall Road Northfleet on or after 3rd November 2012 for up to 9 nights or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from

1) A2260 Hall Road Southbound
2) A2260 Hall Road Northbound.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with A2260 Hall Road Southbound and A2260 Hall Road Northbound.

The alternative route is via .

1) Eastbound on the A2 on the slip continue along the A2 Watling Street to the Tollgate junction (A227) and return Londonbound on the A2 Watling Street to the Pepperhill junction then take the slip road to New barn Roundabout.
2) Proceed on the Westbound A2 on the slip road and continue along the A2 Watling Street to Ebbsfleet interchange B259 and return east on the A2 link road to join the northbound carriageway of Hall Road B262/ A2260 at the Pepperhill junction.

PRINCESS STREET, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) (SUSPEND ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because BT cabling, SGN connection and KCC Highway works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Princess Street, Gravesend between Church Street and New Road. Temporary suspension of one way southbound to enable temporary access into Princess Street, Gravesend from New Road, on or after 4th November 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Church Street, West Street, Crooked Lane, The Terrace and Harmer Street .

THE TERRACE, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of Gas main replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Terrace and Queen Street, Gravesend, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases. Phase 1 - One way order prohibiting eastbound traffic from its junction with Royal Pier Road. No Right turn into The Terrace from East Terrace. No Left turn into The Terrace from Clarendon Road when appriate signage is in place.

Phase 2 - Queen Street, Gravesend to be closed for its entire length when appriate signage is in place.

The alternative route is via Milton Road, Windmill Street, Clive Road, Darnley Road, Bath Street, West Street, The Terrace and Hamer Street.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

FRITTENDEN ROAD, STAPLEHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access the overhead network for BT cabling, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Frittenden Road, Staplehurst, on or after 30 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the High Street to Cradducks Lane.

The alternative route is via High Street, Headcorn Road, Cradducks Lane.

B2010 HIGH STREET, YALDING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the bridge and carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2010 High Street, Yalding, on or after 31 October 2012 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Yalding Bridge.

The alternative route is via B2162 Benover Road/Lees Road/Hampstead Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road/Bow Road, A26 Tonbridge road, B2163 Teston Lane, B2010 Lower Road/Smith's Hill/Yalding Hill.

PILGRIMS WAY, THURNHAM AND REGINALD ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of kerbing and carriageway patching repairs, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Thurnham on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 2 days and Reginald Road, Maidstone, on or after 2 December 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Pilgrims Way will be closed from the junction with The Street to Thurnham Lane and Reginald Road will be closed from the junction with Hever Road to Charles

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

Street.

The alternative route for Pilgrims Way is via Thurnham Lane, Ware Street, Hockers Lane, The Street and for Reginald Road is via Bower Place, Bower Lane, Florence Road, Charles Street.

SYMONDS LANE, YALDING AND BUSBRIDGE ROAD, LOOSE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the bridge, parapet repairs and vegetation clearance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Symonds Lane, Yalding on or after 29 October 2012 and Busbridge Road, Loose, on or after 30 October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

Symonds Road will be closed at the bridge and Busbridge Road will be closed at the retaining wall just north of "Aberglaslyn".

The alternative route for Symonds Lane is via Lees Road, Benover Road and for Busbridge Road is via Stockett Lane, Bockingford Lane, Teasaucer Hill, Cripple Street, Loose Road, Rosemount Close, Old Loose Hill, High Banks.

WORKHOUSE LANE, EAST FARLEIGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to clear out a soak away, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Workhouse Lane, East Farleigh, on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The full length of road will be closed.

The alternative route is via Stockett Lane, B2163 Heath Road, Dean Street.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

BOWER LANE, EYNSFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of provision of a pole for new customer connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bower Lane, Eynsford on or after 30th October 2012 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Station Road for a distance of 800 yards.

There will be no access for through traffic at the junction with Station Road for a distance of 800 yards.

The alternative route is via Station Road, A225, Fackenden Lane, Rowdow Lane, Birchin Cross Road, Bower Lane and vice versa.

CASTLE HILL, HARTLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Castle Hill, Hartley, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Steep Hill to the junction of Ash Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junction of Steep Hill to the junction of Ash Road.

The alternative route is via: approaching from the East, the diversion route is north Along Ash Road Hartley and Hartley Road Longfield and then west along Main Road Longfield then south along Fawkham Road Longfield and Fawkham Road Fawkham and then east along Castle Hill. The diversion for traffic approaching from the west is the same but reversed.

PARK PLACE, CHEVENING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Park Place, Chevening, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Bessels Green Road to the junction A25 Westerham Road.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Bessels Green Road to A25 Westerham Road.

The alternative route is via: approaching from the South, the diversion route is north west along Bessels Green Road, East along A25 Westerham Road. The diversion for traffic approaching from the East is the same but reversed.

WELLFIELD, HARTLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wellfield, Hartley, on or after 15th October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junction of Ash Road and Larkwell Lane.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junction Ash Road and Larkwell Lane.

The alternative route approaching from the west the diversion route is Ash Road, Larks Field, Woodland Avenue and Wellfield .

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND UNLOADING AND ON STREET PARKING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Kent County Council has made an Order under Section 1, 2,35,36,45,46,47,49, 53, 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984, the effect of which is;

In the parish of Shoreham

The junction of High Street and Crown Road (by The Crown public house)	New double yellow lines to prevent parking

A copy of the made Order together with a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1XQ & Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG.

Any person desiring to question the validity of the Order or of any of its provisions on the grounds that it or they are not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulations 1984, or that any requirement of the Act or of any instrument made under the Act has not been complied with, that person may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order is made, apply for the purpose to the High Court.

Dated 13th October 2012

John Burr, Director of Highways, Kent County Council, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent. ME14 1XQ

For enquires relating to this Order please contact Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

BANNISTER HILL, BORDEN & CRYALLS LANE, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bannister Hill, Borden & Cryalls Lane, Sittingbourne, on or after 29 October 2012, as shown below.

BANNISTER HILL, BORDEN will be closed from 29 October for up to 1 week.

The closure is to the north of the junction with The Rise.

The alternative route is via The Street, Pond Farm Road, Sutton Baron Road, Wrens Road, Heart's Delight and Banister Hill

CRYALLS LANE, SITTINGBOURNE will be closed from 5 November for up to 1 week.

The closure is in the vicinity of Cryalls Farm Cottage

The alternative route is via Wises Lane, A2 London Road, Adelaide Drive and Brisbane Avenue.

NEWTON ROAD, FAVERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Newton Road, Faversham, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days, between 7.00 am and 7.00 pm.

The road will be closed in phases for its entire length, i.e. between the junctions with Station Road and East Street.

The alternative route is via B2041 Station Road, Forbes Road, The Mall, A2 London Road, Canterbury Road, B2040 Love Lane, Whitstable Road and East Street.

NORTON LANE, NORTON & BUCKLAND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER OCTOBER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling works to provide a new phone connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Norton Lane, Norton, near Faversham, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm each day.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with A2 London Road, with no through access.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road and Lewson Street Road.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

CHANDOS ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chandos Road, Broadstairs, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 3, with no through access between Chandos Square and York Street.

The alternative route is via Chandos Square, Victoria Parade, John Street and York Street.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order in respect of Chandos Road, from Chandos Square up to the point of closure, to allow access.

CHURCH STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To enable access to phone ducting in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Street, Broadstairs, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Northdown Road and Albion Road.

The alternative route is via Albion Road, St Peter's Park Road, A255 The Broadway, St Peter's Road, Broadstairs Road and Vicarage Street.

MONKTON STREET, MONKTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works to alleviate flooding, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Monkton Street, Monkton, on or after 29 October 2012 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed to the east of the primary school, with no access for through traffic.

The alternative route is via Monkton Street, Willets Hill, A299 Thanet Way and Tothill Street.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

BRADBOURNE LANE, DITTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bradbourne Lane, Ditton, on or after 16 October 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between St Peters Road and the end of the road at "The Ford".

There is no alternative route.

LONG MILL LANE AND COMP LANE, PLATT, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Long Mill Lane on or after 15 October 2012 for up to 6 weeks and on Comp Lane on or after 26 November 2012 for up to 4 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Long Mill Lane will be closed from the junction with Grange Road to Comp Lane and Comp Lane will be closed from the junction with Long Mill Lane to 50 metres after The Old School Hall.

The alternative route for Long Mill Lane is via A25 Maidstone Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Comp Lane and for Comp Lane is via Long Mill Lane, A25 Maidstone Road, A20 Tonbridge Road, B2016 Seven Mile Lane.

MILL STREET, EAST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2012

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Street, East Malling, on or after 3 November 2012 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between High Street/New Road and Clare Lane.

The alternative route is via Clare Lane, Winterfield Lane, Chapman Way and New Road.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, PADDOCK WOOD) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2012 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make an Order under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which would be to:-

Prohibit any vehicle, laden or unladen with a gross weight which exceeds 7.5 tonnes to proceed along both Lucks Lane and Wagon Lane, Paddock Wood, from their junctions with Maidstone Road (B2160) to their junctions with Queen Street.

Access rights will be maintained for all vehicles requiring legitimate access to or from any premises situated on these roads.

This will be for improving the amenities of the area through which the road runs.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined during normal office hours Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or Kent County Council Highways Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to Miss Laura Squires, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on 5th November 2012.

John Burr
Director Kent Highways
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 14th September 2012**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

READER OFFER Holidays

Call 01895 83 33 33 for bookings and information

Holidays offered by **GN Holidays**, Higher Denham, Uxbridge UB9 5EL • Open: 9am to 5.30pm weekdays; 9.30am to 12.30pm Saturdays • Email: info@gnholidays.com • www.gnholidays.com

Hayling Island 99p Bar Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Mill Rythe Holiday Village

Self drive, 3 nights, half board PLUS 99p Bar

Was ~~£159~~pp

Sale Price £149pp

Quote XM11-KOS

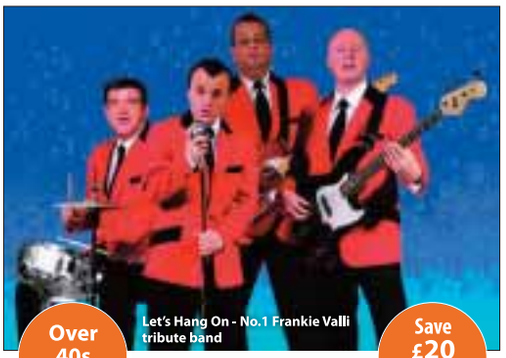
23 November, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed Christmas Party - for over 40s only - at Mill Rythe Holiday Village on Hayling Island, near Portsmouth. Enjoy 99p drinks and a full programme of entertainment including afternoon matinee shows.

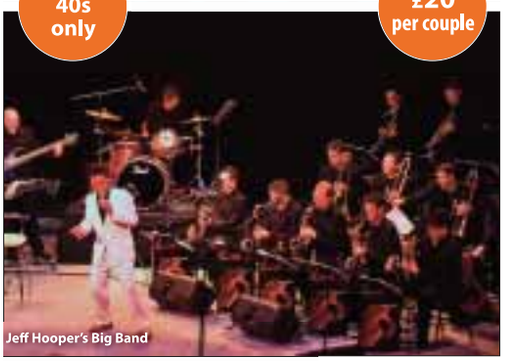
The programme features:

- Jeff Hooper's Big Band - the Strictly Come Dancing tour band for the last 2 seasons
- Let's Hang On - the world's no.1 tribute to Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons
- The Dagenham Girl Pipers
- Songs from the Disney Songbook
- Tribute to Abba
- Sisters of Swing
- The Vera Lynn Story.

Leisure facilities at Mill Rythe include an indoor swimming pool, all weather bowls and more.



Let's Hang On - No.1 Frankie Valli tribute band


Jeff Hooper's Big Band

Standard chalets are roomy and comfortable, offering en-suite bathroom with colour TV, tea and coffee making facilities - upgrades available.

INCLUDED:

- 99p Bar 6pm to 11pm every evening - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full Variety Entertainment programme • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available

All Inclusive Bruges & Belgium Christmas Markets River Cruise

Escorted Rail to River Cruise

4 days all-inclusive

~~£499~~pp

Special Offer £399pp

Quote CX12-KOS

4 December, 2012

Join us for a fun-packed cruise, taking-in Bruges, Ghent, Ostend and an array of fabulous Christmas markets. Our floating hotel, the ms Princess - exclusively chartered by Good News Holidays - will deliver us to each town in comfort and style with everything on board included - all drinks from 9am to midnight, breakfast, lunch, afternoon cakes, dinner, late snacks and entertainment.

On our journey to join the cruise in Belgium we experience the thrill and convenience of European rail travel. We then cruise effortlessly along peaceful Belgian waterways from town to town, with an overnight stay at each.

The ms Princess

Refurbished in 2010, the ms Princess accommodates just 100 guests in comfort and style. There is a cosy lounge-bar and restaurant, all with panoramic views.

Dinner is a real highlight with 4 courses served at your table each night. All cabins are twin berth with private facilities, tv, telephone and heating.

CRUISE ITINERARY:

Day 1 • Morning departure on Eurostar from London St Pancras (or Ebbsfleet on request) to Ostend in Belgium. Board the ms Princess - overnight in Ostend

Day 2 • Early morning departure, enjoy breakfast as we cruise to Bruges arriving around 9am - all day and overnight in Bruges

Day 3 • Early morning sailing to Ghent, enjoy breakfast and lunch on board before arriving early-to-mid afternoon - overnight in Ghent

Day 4 • Morning disembarkation in Ghent returning home by train.

INCLUDED:

- Escorted throughout
- Return rail travel from London St Pancras (Ebbsfleet departures on request)
- 3-night All-Inclusive cruise on the ms Princess
- Main Deck, upgraded outside cabin with private facilities (grade M2L)
- Entertainment on board
- All transfers abroad

Warner Norton Grange has a super sea shore location

Queen tribure band Majesty

Isle of Wight Free Bar Christmas Party

For over 40s only

Warner Norton Grange Resort

Self drive, 3 nights, drinks-inclusive

£199pp

Quote XN11-KOS

30 November, 2012

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without GN Holidays annual Warner Christmas Party Extravaganza. The 2012 event – for over 40s only – will be the usual blend of fun and festivities. Norton Grange Resort - nicely located by the sea at Yarmouth, Isle of Wight - will be decked out for the Festive season. Mulled wine and mince pies will be served on arrival and, during your stay, you will enjoy great entertainment incuding Queen tribute band Majesty, comedy vocalist Ian Larkin and much more.

INCLUDED:

- Free Bar from 6pm to 11pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full Entertainment & Activities programme
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation
- Car ferry crossing

Carry on New Year 99p Bar Parties at Bosworth Hall Hotel

Market Bosworth, Leics

Self-Drive, 2 nights, half board PLUS 99p drinks

Was ~~£109~~pp

Now £89pp

Quote BH1-KOS

4, 11, 18, 25 Jan & 8 Feb, 2013

Extend your New Year Celebrations with a fantastic value break at popular Bosworth Hall. Our Carry on New Year Party weekends have become a must-do annual event with guests returning year after year. Enjoy 99p drinks from 6pm to 11pm and entertainment nightly at Bosworth Hall Hotel, located in the village of Market Bosworth, Leicestershire. All the bedrooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, trouser press and tea & coffee tray. Leisure facilities include an indoor pool & gym (£4 per day payable at the hotel).

INCLUDED:

- 99p drinks from 6pm to 11 pm nightly - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks and mixers
- 2 nights sharing a twin/double-bedded en-suite hotel room
- 2 breakfasts & 2 dinners
- Entertainment

A Lemon Festival display

Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival & Monaco

Escorted Rail Holiday from London & Ebbsfleet*

8 days, semi-all-inclusive

£849pp

Quote LF2-KOS

21 February, 2013

This super holiday, taking in the French Riviera's premier Carnivals, starts with a glass of Bubbly at St Pancras' famous Champagne Bar before an escorted afternoon departure by Eurostar (from Ebbsfleet on request). On the Riviera enjoy Free Drinks every night, visits to Menton Lemon Festival, Nice Carnival, Monaco & Cervo. We stay in Diano Marina, situated on Italy's Riviera of Flowers.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Champagne check-in at London St Pancras • Return rail travel from St Pancras (*from Ebbsfleet on request) - afternoon departure • Overnight hotel B&B in Paris outbound • 6 nights half board in Diano Marina, including free drinks 6pm to 11pm every night • All excursions • All transfers abroad

Rail Option: Luggage handling - £29pp

Meet your perfect partner through your local trusted dating service

Call: 0800 032 9100 to place a free ad

Women Seeking

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508

(T&C's below)

ATTRACTIVE black lady, N/S, intelligent, fun, seeks genuine companion for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397797**

STACY 39, green eyes, blonde hair, toned body, looking for genuine loving male to enjoy good times in or out and to fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397495**

KAT 37, slim build and active looking for male 30-45yrs for easy going discreet friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397403**

LISA independent 34yr female, v.attractive, curvy, many interests WLTM male to give me lots of adult attention with no ties. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397399**

SHARON slim size 10 blonde, horsy, loves nights out, looking for new adventures with tall, dark, fit considerate male to look after. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397395**

HI I am Marion a blonde brown eyed homely girl who likes the company of other people, looking for male 45plus to fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397393**

MEL 38yr lonely tall, blonde, attractive with curves in all the right places, WLTM professional discreet male for mutual meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397117**

56YR old female, likes music, varied interests, seeking well travelled male, 46-60 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392834**

DEBBIE is 28yrs, petite and blonde. Loves gym and fitness. WLTM a sensitive male, looks and age unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395659**

FRANCES is a curvy mid 40's lady, loves most things, could she love you? Call to find out. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395653**

SARAH 40, large, tactile, likes cuddles, walks, cinema, beach, meals out, seeking male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390912**

LADY 70's, easygoing, likes most things, medium build, seeks gent for friendship, car owner. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386331**

SENSUAL 32yr old professional with no time to have a relationship, seeks similar understanding male for compatible discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386309**

BUBBLY female, 49, kind, caring, honest, GSOH, brown hair, blue eyes, likes meals out, pubs, cooking, cinema, seeks male with similar interests for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390815**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, well travelled, intelligent, GSOH, seeks genuine, affectionate male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393897**

WHERE have all the eligible bachelors gone? Slim attractive blue eyed blonde, many interests and looking some TLC. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397019**

MAXINE blonde green eyed slim single mum longing for some adult companionship with reliable mature male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397011**

YOUNG at heart widow, 61, N/S, seeks honest, caring man, 55-65 for company, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397005**

HI I am Ann a young looking lonely widow, slim, attractive, solvent with OHAC, looking to love again, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395715**

LOUISE single divorcee looking for fun times with likeminded male who likes to have good times in or out. Status/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395711**

HAPPY go lucky 60yr old female, 5ft 6ins, GSOH, attractive, looking for honest male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397021**

36YR old single mum, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, medium build, GSOH, likes music, walks, animals, cinema, nights in, meals out, seeks sincere male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396373**

LADY 71, 5ft 7ins, seeks dance partner of similar age and height. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396391**

HI I'm Bev, 44yrs old, tall and blonde. Good wicked SOH and varied interests. WLTM kind chap, looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395699**

LOUISE 35yr old living doll who enjoys all the finer things in life looking for mature male who knows what he wants for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397023**

GENUINE attractive, intelligent fun loving woman, 57, hopes to meet well travelled, educated, socially adept man for love, laughter and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396621**

HI I am Tess, single, sexy, solvent, professional but very lonely, looking for genuine fun with reliable male, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395691**

SINGLE professional 39yr old, travels with work, looking for some out of hours entertainment. call me to find out more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395689**

CHRISSY 51, 5ft 8ins, blue eyes, brown hair, large build, size 22, seeks local male from loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395209**

TANYA 28, beautiful black single mum, very body confident and all out of love. Lonely and looking for good company with experienced respectful man. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381727**

ANNE attractive 30's student nurse who loves to keep fit and travel looking for broadminded professional male, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395037**

GILLY green eyed red haired nurse looking to start a new life with similar lonely male also looking for genuine love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395043**

CLAIRE 19yr old bored busty blonde seeking male for fun times in or out. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395033**

FLOSSY likes cinema, meals out, nights in, looking for N/S male, 65-66 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392906**

5FT 7ins female, blue eyes, black hair, trustworthy, GSOH, likes animals, walks, nights in/out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396149**

EMMA is a dizzy hairdresser, 24yrs old looking for a guy with hair to work on! Any age, looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395695**

LINDA 42, easygoing, likes cinema, walks, theatre, seeks N/S male with similar interests for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395523**

JAYNE honest sincere attractive lonely professional, OHAC, looking for fun times with similar lonely gent, age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390985**

AFFABLE serene black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, loves reading nature, theatre, music WLTM genuine caring gent to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

LADY 71, 5ft 7ins, seeks dance partner of similar age and height. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396391**

MEL easy going middle aged singleton looking for adult companionship with nice male who appreciates a feminine, attractive lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392487**

WELL educated female, slim, smart, mid 50's, needing to restart life, looking for tall, slim, smart gent with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391136**

DONNA 24yr old single nurse, curvy, pretty, brown hair, big eyes, single and fun to be with, WLTM mature male for romance 25-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391117**

SARAH 27yr old single mum, independent, very pretty, GOSH, many interests, seeking male for cuddles and lots of TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391097**

DENISE very normal single white female, likes nights in/out, keeping fit, seeking genuine romantic black male for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391093**

MARGARET middle aged, attractive, likes storm chasing, cooking, seeks male with GSOH, possible forces. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391648**

RACHAEL blonde haired attractive female 27, looking for love with fun guy who like me is not looking for anything too serious, Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394667**

TRACY mum of two, blonde, slim, attractive, tactile and very sexy for age, WLTM male 30-50yrs for ltr, single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394665**

ELIZABETH 70 plus, enjoys life, GSOH, seeks caring man for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390990**

FIT active lady, early 70's, honest, caring, OHAC, likes gardening, music/dance, seeking nice companion to enjoy life together and have good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394915**

LADY likes most things, wishes to meet gent 62-68 for evenings in/out, cinema, walks, talks and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392472**

ATTRACTIVE caring lady, 77, 5ft 1ins, GSOH, fit, varied interests, seeks sincere gent, N/S for companionship and happiness. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395453**

HI genuine, fun to be with male? Nancy 39, attractive, discreet, lonely and in need of some much missed male attention. Call me **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381705**

IRENE looking for happy go lucky relationship with trustworthy male for romantic evenings in, quiet nights out, passionate weekends away and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381701**

SARAH 29yrs slim and dark haired WLTM older male. Sarah likes various things and wants to try them with you. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395693**

SARAH is a busty blue eyed blonde seeking a fun guy in local area. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395683**

TINA young 64, smoker, GSOH, loving, caring, likes animals, meals out, seeks male for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394201**

JULIE 5ft 9ins blue eyed blonde looking for male for mutually convenient meets, looks/status unimportant, discretion a must. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394123**

SUSAN first time advertiser very lonely and looking for love with considerate, loyal male with lots of love to give and GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393489**

TRACY likes night's in/out, seeking honest male, 36-46 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391884**

SERENE affable black attractive slim female 37 with a benevolent smile, friendly, loves reading nature, theatre, music, sports WLTM genuine caring gent, 34-47 to share laughter/life. London **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

BECKY 34 single mum of one, GSOH, employed with OHAC, fun to be with and very loving, WLTM Mr Right if he is out there? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386305**

LOUISE young 48, long hair, blue eyes, cultured, easygoing, good natured, seeks intelligent, genuine guy for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389389**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, NS, solvent lady, young 50's, loves travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military/professional gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388071**

JEM 24 new to this, WLTM someone who also enjoys fine wine/dining for good times and adult relationship, 28-45yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392497**

51YR old attractive Queen of the Jungle, seeking genuine, caring older gent for uncomplicated times together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390916**

JACKIE 32 attractive classy professional, blue eyes, brown hair, healthy/trim, well travelled, feminine, smart, seeks male, 40-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391013**

LESLEY professional single mum, a bit of a chatterbox, loves fine dining/wining, WLTM eligible bachelor to take advantage of. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394659**

SALLY 27yr old Air Hostess seeking honest reliable male to join the mile high club, discreet liaisons and friendship with benefits. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394655**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, professional/military gent of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394525**

LADY 70, likes most things, WLTM gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394309**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

HELEN 34yr old single mum to one, tall, slim and attractive, WLTM intelligent male for good conversations and adult meets, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394475**

ELISA blue eyed brunette 39, curvy and delicious, loves to travel and live life, seeking similar free spirited loving male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394461**

PAULA 27, attractive brunette, very outgoing and sensual looking for similar male for mature broadminded relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394571**

KAREN pretty single mum of one, 34, independent, professional, OHAC, looking for someone special to enjoy good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394563**

MID 40's slim, attractive female, seeks single male, 65-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391989**

GINA 65, likes bowling, golf, looking for N/S male, 60-66 for friendship, fun, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394623**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

ALISHA blue eyed petite brunette, likes to keep fit, cooking, holidays, seeks male 30-45 for special times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392399**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

YOUNG in outlook 60yr old lady, seeks gent with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393173**

MARIE 45, Irish, GSOH, seeking male with GSOH and lots of energy for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391222**

SHARON 33, slim blonde, blue eyes outgoing, attractive, looking to put some much needed fun back into life, seeks male 30-45yrs. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383047**

PETITE French lady, likes to be pampered, seeks sugar daddy, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379579**

DEBS 38 green eyed sophisticated blonde, attractive size 12, not looking for anything long term or steady just fun with intelligent male, 30-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386273**

MICHAEL romantic, honest, caring, seeks lady to brighten up lonely life, likes walks, meals out, nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395445**

DOMINANT male, seeking submissive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396461**

LONG term lover required with no strings by caring, open minded male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396423**

ROBERT 43, looking for fun with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392938**

HANDSOME builder, 44, great body, charming, N/S, 5ft 10ins, seeks female, 35-65 for discreet passionate meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392926**

LADY 48-60 wanted for mutual fun and all action adult friendship, by 56yr old fit, exciting and very able real man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396913**

HANDSOME man, tactile, discreet, seeks lady for no strings adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397183**

PAUL 53yrs, 5ft 9ins, 12 stone, quite attractive, seeking lady with GSOH for no strings attached going out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397149**

Men Seeking

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 (T&C's below)

MATURE male, 38, GSOH, likes cooking, gardening, DIY, music, looking for female, 37-41 for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397893**

6FT male, 58, slim, light hearted, likes clubbing, would expect to add a dimension to our relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397821**

OPEN-MINDED male seeks discreet fun with female, fed up being bored. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397807**

DANNY 49, looking for older lady to give him some attention and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393162**

PETER 57, likes pubs, walks, cinema, enjoying life, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397599**

HANDSOME builder, 44, great body, charming, N/S, 5ft 10ins, seeks female, 35-65 for discreet passionate meetings. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392926**

MARK 45, medium build, seeks lady, 25-45, kind, caring, genuine, with or without kids. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397791**

PROFESSIONAL male, seeks female, 30-50 for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396775**

SOLVENT good looking, attentive, discreet male looking for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393026**

HOPEFUL fun loving, young male, 50, good company, genuine, sincere, easy going, seeks female to rediscover full life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396855**

CHRIS genuine, N/S, 60, likes cycling, walking, seeks soul mate to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396825**

FIT 55yr old male, seeks adventurous lady for broadminded adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396805**

SEYMOUR mid 60's, likes cruising, travel, socialising, seeks active, N/S lady to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396675**

JOHN romantic, caring, likes country/coastal walks, music, candle lit suppers, seeks special soul mate to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396617**

MALE 57, WLTM female 45-55, all I can give is guaranteed love, devotion and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396497**

54YR old male, seeks mature female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397477**

STEVE young looking 48, many interests, seeks female, 30-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397289**

GOOD looking solvent guy 45, easy-going, GSOH, genuine, honest looking to wine and dine sexy nice lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397235**

MALE looking for someone with an interest in nights out, cinema, TV, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397461**

MALE 55, guarantees to hit all the right buttons for willing lady wanting exciting get togethers. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397335**

33YR old male, looking for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396345**

MALE 70's, likes dancing, holidays, meals out, seeks lady, 75-85 to share the sunshine years. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396335**

SUB male, WLTM mature extremely dominant female for happy relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395327**

MATURE gent seeks attractive young female as companion on 6 week holiday in late August. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395529**

PRESENTABLE Surrey male, looking for lady for afternoon fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395521**

Gay Seeking

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to connect and chat with other men look no further TXT: **GAY601** to **65125** for 3 chat matches, fun and safe service. **(T&C's below)**

Go online - www.localgaydate.co.uk

33YR old bi male, seeking discreet male of similar age for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389236**

SUB bi guy 59, well built, seeks male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389106**

SARAH TV, seeking male for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396169**

CHRIS 5ft 7ins, medium build, submissive, seeks male 50 plus for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396029**

PRETTY blonde 47, medium build, looking for boyish female, 50's for cosy nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388798**

Friendship

SINGLE straight lady, seeking similar ladies for nights out, shopping, coffee and socialising. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 391102**

BERNIE 43 straight looking for single ladies for socialising, nights out, coffee, shopping, bowling and cinema. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389490**

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When you see a 📷 symbol, this means the member has a photo. Text **PIC397**(space)the advertisers mailbox number, and send to 88833* to receive it straight to your mobile.

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Show us your smile!

Text your solo picture along with your 6 digit mailbox number(space)4 digit pin No. under your photo, to 0779 366 6363. Or email: support@jmediauk.co.uk with your Mailbox & pin number.

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Birds of prey take to the skies above Dover Castle

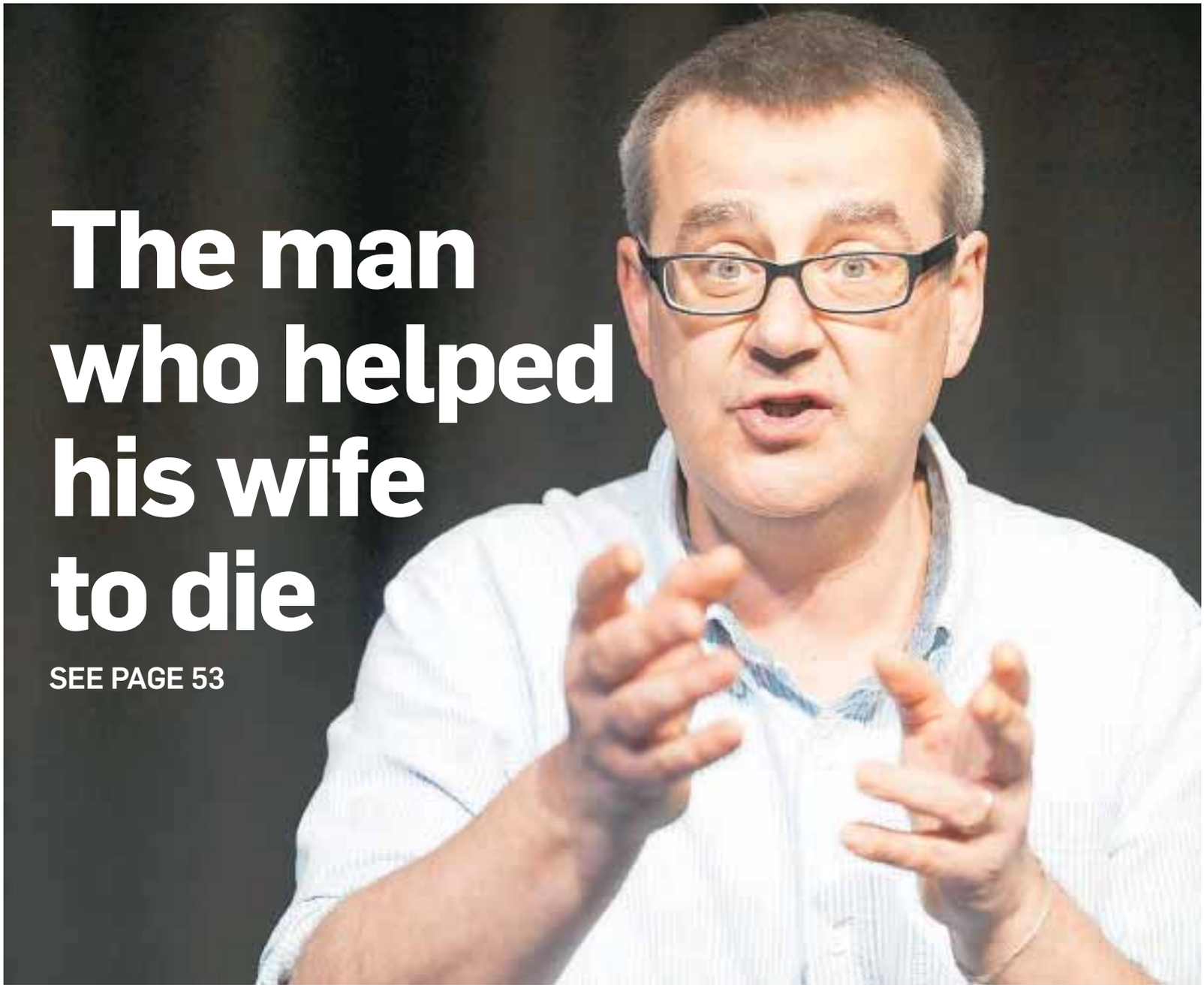
SEE PAGE 57

TOP KATZ

Margate gallery has an impressive name in residence

SEE PAGE 59

Kent Weekend



The man who helped his wife to die

SEE PAGE 53

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THE INTERVIEW

Chris Larner

Help me die... please

Dave Mairs speaks to the writer who assisted his former wife in her journey to end her life

THE marriage between Chris Larner and Allyson Lee didn't last long. It did, though, produce a son and the pair stayed good friends after going their separate ways.

Given the early demise of the marriage, events had unfolded as positively as might have been hoped, while the story in itself is not so unusual. Except that in this case, almost 25 years after their divorce, Allyson asked Chris to help her end her life.

Being asked to help facilitate the death of his "good buddy" and mother of his son was surely as difficult a challenge as he could expect to face in life, but Chris remained practical, sanguine even.

"I said 'If it comes to it... you've got to make that decision. Who am I to argue with that?'"

And two years after he was asked, Chris did indeed travel with Allyson and her sister Vivienne to the Dignitas clinic in Switzerland, where, as planned, her life was ended.

It is a tale told in Chris's play An Instinct For Kindness, which comes to Theatre Royal Margate this month.

"Allyson was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis [MS] in the early 1980s," said Chris, a 52-year-old writer, actor and director. "She fought it and had a successful career teaching drama, but she was always fighting fatigue and the collapse of her body.

"In about 2005 her condition really started deteriorating. In 2008 Allyson looked at her health and decided that if this carried on she wouldn't want it any more."

When she first raised the issue of assisted suicide with Chris, "it was more as a theoretical question than a long-term thing".

"It wasn't a decision she would have come to lightly and she wouldn't have asked me in terms of pity. She was strong-willed and a fighter, but it was getting harder to find any enjoyment in her life."

The matter came to a head after the winter of 2009, which Allyson had found "really hard-going".

"What often happens with people with MS is that when the warmer weather comes back, they get back a measure of their health. That didn't happen this time."

Allyson's life was becoming an increasing struggle. "She was wheelchair-bound, she had lost control of her bowels and her arms had stopped working."

In spring 2010 she decided she could not face another winter. The journey to Dignitas was confirmed, but there was to be no plain sailing.

"It's not as simple as people think – you don't just turn up. They check you very thoroughly. You have to become a member first and they prefer it if you've been a member for some time to show you're committed to what they're doing.

"There's a lot of form-filling and bureaucracy. It's lengthy, exhausting and exhaustive. The whole thing took about five months."

The practicalities were not helped by the fact that Allyson, who was 60, lived in Yorkshire and Chris in London. But there was no stopping the momentum being gathered and finally the three arrived at the country in which Allyson would die.

"It's funny, the few days in Switzerland were like a bit of a holiday. We were able to have those difficult conversations – it's like when someone leaves the room. It was bittersweet and it was possible to say things you wouldn't normally be able to."

Chris and Vivienne, a nurse and who was "absolutely in favour", were with Allyson when the time came. "She's lying on a bed. She has a pre-med. There's a foul-tasting drink.

"What is odd is they say you'll drink this and fall asleep. You think they'll get drowsy, see fluffy pink elephants and so on. But it's Bang! Head on the pillow. She was asleep, she was snoring. It took about quarter of an hour."

Some two years on, does he have any regrets?

"My regret is that Allyson was so ill. Nothing could be done for her. I hear talk of a possible cure, say on the radio, and it's heartbreaking. I miss Allyson. I don't regret helping Allyson."

However sure anyone could ever be about such actions, there is still a moral issue to address.

"As an overview, I don't have a problem with it, as long as the appropriate checks for such things as depression are made. It's self-determination.

"When it got to the practicalities, when it came to taking her to Switzerland – she couldn't have done it by herself – I asked 'Is it right to help her to do this?'.

"Allyson never had any doubts. If she'd once turned round and asked, I'd have said I'd rather you stay alive but this is your decision.

"Our lives are our own. I'm not religious and Allyson certainly wasn't. There was no question of there being a god to upset."

The pair talked lengthily with their son over what they were doing. "He had no political or philosophical objections, but when it came to it he didn't want her to go... it was his mum."

Chris's conviction in what he did still burns bright. "Allyson was an extremely self-reliant woman who stood up for herself and made a life for herself. To see her become frightened and vulnerable...

"There were no medical options – her body wasn't working. Her bravery and single-mindedness were an inspiration. At the end she had dignity and self-control – she found a bit of that."

To his surprise, there have been no legal ramifications. "Not even when we were at the planning stage. It was known that the police were embarrassed at the prospect of prosecuting people such as me, but I had half-expected them to come and question me."

And An Instinct For Kindness – a process of catharsis or something more geared to one of the great debates of our time?

"It started with a political thing in mind – but it was going to be a dry old piece. There was a story I had to tell – her bravery and fight for self-determination.

"As the piece developed, I started getting angry at the bureaucracy and official loopholes through which Allyson had to jump.

"I've since got involved in the whole campaign to get this discussed. What we're good at in this country is silence, but that can't happen here – this won't go away. What I really want from this play is for it to engage people in debate. So Allyson didn't die in vain.

"I was hoping for a picket outside. I think there would have been more criticism if it had been on TV, but it's not quite the same with theatre – you go if you want."

You might, in truth, not imagine An Instinct For Kindness to provide the most cheery of nights out, but Chris highlights its warmer aspects.

"I can't pretend it's not a heart-rending piece of theatre, but it's uplifting – life-affirming. It was nearly a gloom-fest, but part of its success has been that it's so much more."

The critics have been few. "I was rather fearful that people would see it as a tasteless exercise, but I've had emails and letters saying that people had found it far from that."

Aside from its role in the debate on assisted suicide, his play, which won the Scotsman Fringe First award in 2011 and has run in the West End this year, stands as Chris's loving tribute to a woman who took the decision to end her suffering by travelling to another country and having her life taken from her.

"You can bring the body back, but they recommend cremation in Switzerland and the ashes being returned, which was a bit odd. They're so efficient, the Swiss..."

■ **An Instinct For Kindness plays at Theatre Royal Margate on Thursday, October 18, at 7.30pm. Phone 01843 292795 or visit www.theatreroyalmargate.com for tickets.**

The Swan 75 Sea Road, Westgate-On-Sea, Kent CT8 8QG

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Margate Winter GardensTel: 01843 296111
admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk

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Eastwell Manor
ASHFORD

Full details of all the Christmas and New Year events are available in our Christmas brochure which can be obtained by telephoning 01233 213020/213000 or visiting our website: www.eastwellmanor.co.uk

FESTIVE **PARTIES**

Be sure you're at the coolest bash of 2012

FOLLOWING the success of last year's Christmas party nights, Winter Wonderland is back at Margate's Winter Gardens, with Queens Hall transformed for yuletide.

On entry you will be greeted with an iced cocktail to kick-start your evening. A pianist will accompany you as you enjoy your three-course festive carvery at the beautifully-decorated tables. Once you have enjoyed your sumptuous meal, it's time for you to be treated to some live entertainment before dancing the night away into the early hours guided by the resident Winter Gardens DJ.

Whether you're a small party of two or a group of 200, we'd love you to join us for a Christmas to remember for just £29.50 per person (smart dress code will be enforced).

So what are you waiting for? Reserve your place now on the coolest guest list in 2012, from Monday, December 17, through to Saturday, December 22.

For bookings and further information, phone Margate Winter Gardens on 01843 296111 or email admin@margatewintergardens.co.uk.

Bringing in the new year with that seaside style

CELEBRATE the start of 2013 in style with a New Year's Eve party at the Leas Cliff Hall in Folkestone.

Avoid the ultra-busy pubs and clubs and come and have fun in the waterside complex's stylish Channel Suite.

The popular annual event will be tastefully decorated for the occasion and offers the use of a private bar and a cocktail bar, as well as live music and disco, allowing you to dance the night away. Why look anywhere else?

And if that is not enough to see you through the transition of this year to the next, included in the price is a delicious buffet and a glass of bubbly to toast as the clock strikes midnight.

The party takes place on Monday, December 31, from 8pm to 2am the following morning. Tickets are priced at £20 per person, but groups of 10 save £40, with a table for 10 costing only £160.

To book your table or for more information, phone the sales team on 01303 228606, visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk or email lchfunctions@leascliffhall.co.uk.

Join the lords and ladies of the manor

EASTWELL Manor is a fabulous winter wonderland setting for a Christmas party, with the historic manor house and The Pavilion beautifully decorated for the festive season with giant Christmas trees and hundreds of lights.

The party nights are held at The Pavilion and have either casino tables or Wii games to entertain you following your three-course dinner. The resident DJ will be playing music to suit all tastes and you will be well looked after from the glass of bubbly on arrival until your departure.

Why not stay the night in one of the delightful mews cottages? If you prefer a quieter celebration, then private dining may be the answer. You can eat in one of the beautiful private dining rooms, where eight to 80 guests can be catered for.

The head chef has put together some festive menus!

Phone the reservations team on 01233 213000/213020, email enquiries@eastwellmanor.co.uk or visit www.eastwellmanor.co.uk.

The world of Dickens is a magical place for fun

THIS Christmas, Dickens World at Chatham Maritime is proud to present truly magical entertainment for everyone.

Entry to the Christmas launch is free and the festive celebrations commence on Saturday, November 17.

Join in then for a chance to enter the beautifully-decorated attraction and view the live performance of A Christmas Carol in the Dickens World courtyard, complete with a magnificent indoor snowfall.

Events this Christmas include the family pantomime Dick Whittington, with performances throughout December.

Visit Santa's Winter Wonderland and imagine a special ice-rink for children to play on, the workshop cabins where Santa and Mrs Merry Christmas and the helper elves Jingle, Jangle and Twinkle help all the children with their Christmas lists.

Imagine gingerbread-making and story time with Mrs Merry Christmas in a special place where it's always Christmas.

For more information, visit www.dickensworld.co.uk or phone 01634 890421.

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

It's no myth that Manolis offers a traditional Greek experience

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

The term is 'Grecophile' – someone who has a keen interest in all things Greek. Both my guest and I for the evening at Manolis Taverna in Canterbury fall into that category, thanks to countless trips to countless islands and hundreds of meals at the hands of Aegean chefs.

So the offer of "authentic Greek cuisine" on the Manolis website was too tempting to ignore. Since 1989 the restaurant has resided in the former Ben Johnson pub in the city centre and from the outside looks like a typical old boozer.

On the inside it looks like a typical back-street taverna you would find on a Greek island. Checkered tablecloths, dodgy MDF shelving hosting bottles of ouzo and metaxa, white paper-napkins and paintings of white tiled buildings by the sea strewn across the walls... With tables seated very close together, it's a carbon-copy of the real thing.

We had heard that opting for the Manolis meze, the Greek version of tapas, at £22.95 per person would not leave us disappointed, so with a bottle of Mythos beer in hand the evening began and the dishes began to appear.

First up came two large, flat pitta breads, closer to a naan than the Turkish-style pitta you would get from Tesco. They arrived with

traditional pink whipped taramasalata as well as the crushed chickpea houmous and the garlic and cucumber tzatziki. All were delicious, but the tzatziki was exceptional and very fresh.

A classic Greek salad that could have served five followed, comprising olives, tomatoes, cucumber and bright, crumbly feta cheese.

We added the nearby oil and vinegar for a decent dish – not the best Greek salad I have ever tasted, but it is the wrong time of year for the key ingredients. Along came the dolmades, or vine leaves, stuffed with spiced rice and beef. Again they were simple, fresh and impeccably cooked. Out came fried calamari and garlic king prawns. The squid was a little rubbery, but the prawns were succulent and incredibly moreish.

The loukanika (spicy sausage meatballs with a tomato ragu) was next. It was very good but didn't stand out among the other excellent dishes.

The main course was still to come as part of the deal and we chose one each but to share. I opted for the giouvetsi, Greek pasta with lamb and tomato sauce. The tiny pasta grains in a sea of tender lamb and tomato ragu was superb and made for its own type of stew.

My guest went for the souvlaki, a meaty dish of skewered chicken and pork kebabs. A little dry the way it was served up, but the mountains of dips and sauces took care of that.

Another guest who joined us got stuck into the sea of dishes and ordered his own kleftiko (£12.95), similar to a 'British' lamb shank. It was tender and fell from the bone.

A few drinks later and the three of us had still only spent £86, including service. An Olympic amount of good, well-made food, great atmosphere and great prices. No tragedy here.

Joe Bill

The King's Mile, 10 Guildhall Street
Canterbury CT1 2JQ
Telephone 01227 769189
Website www.manolistaverna.co.uk

The Sportsman still in with the culinary elite

LESS than a week after the release of the 2013 Michelin Guide, a Kent restaurant has bagged a spot in the UK's top 10.

The Sportsman at Seasalter was voted the sixth-best eatery in Britain at the National Restaurant Awards for 2012.

With head chef and owner Steve Harris at the helm, The Sportsman not only retained its coveted Michelin star this year but also kept its place among the culinary elite.

To make it into the top 100 list, the restaurant had to be voted for by members of the National Restaurant Award Academy, made up of journalists, food critics, restaurateurs and other chefs across 12 regions of the UK.

The Sportsman had previously come fifth in 2011, 31st in 2010 and 12th in 2009, when it also claimed the Gastropub Of The Year title.

The Ledbury restaurant in Notting Hill, London, took the Michelin top spot for the third year in a row, while TV chef Heston Blumenthal's Fat Duck at Bray has been hot on its heels.

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Who would you believe?
Stage thriller

Churchill Theatre, Bromley
Tue, Oct 30, to Sat, Nov 3
08448 717620
www.atgtickets.com/bromley

FOLLOWING the huge success of Dandy Dick in July, the Theatre Royal Brighton returns with its second production, Blue/Orange.

Penned by award-winning British playwright Joe Penhall, this psychological thriller features Downton Abbey star Robert Bathurst, Gerard McCarthy (Hollyoaks) and Oliver Wilson (Misfits).

Blue/Orange tells the story of a young patient, Christopher, who is convinced that a notorious dictator is his father.

Bruce, a psychiatric doctor, wants to do further tests and plan longer care, but senior consultant Robert wants to thrust him back into the community.

Tickets are priced from £10 to £29.50.

A twist in the Chaucer tales
Pantaloons

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Friday, November 1
01227 769075
www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian

THE critically-acclaimed Pantaloons theatre company is touring theatres this autumn with its hilarious version of Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales.

Back by popular demand, the show went down a storm on the open-air circuit in 2011.

Now it's indoors, improved and impressively ambitious. In a theatrical first, Pantaloons is performing all of the 24 completed tales – no mean feat considering just five actors play 70 characters in less than two hours.

To make it yet harder, they will perform each tale in a different style. Audiences can expect pantomime, puppetry, masks, musicals, mime, farce, reality television, horror and opera. Even Shakespeare gets a look-in!

Tickets cost from £6-£10.

Strictly cha-cha
A licence to thrill

The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Saturday, March 2, 2013
01227 787 787
www.marlowetheatre.com

STRICTLY Come Dancing star Brendan Cole has announced that his latest tour, Licence To Thrill, will be cha-cha-ing its way to The Marlowe in Canterbury early next year.

The dancer is promising all of the ballroom and Latin favourites seen on the BBC show.

A cast of 14 musicians and six world-class dancers will show off stunning choreography to contemporary music in this two-hour dance and big-band production.

The waltzes and the foxtrots, the tangos and the American smooths, will take audiences on the dancing journey of a lifetime.

Tickets are on sale now priced from £28-£30.

Birds of prey on display
Falconry fair

Dover Castle
Saturday and Sunday, October 6-7
0870 3331183

A CELEBRATION of falconry from the time of the Wars Of The Roses will take place at Dover Castle this weekend.

During the late medieval period, falconry was at the height of fashion. Hunting with raptors was not only a practical method of catching game for the table but also a necessary part of noble education.

Husband-and-wife duo Mike and Emma, of Raphael Historic Falconry, will celebrate this golden age of hawking with flying displays and re-created hunting scenes with hawks, falcons and owls.

The event runs from 10am to 5pm each day. Normal castle admission of £16.50 for adults, £9.90 for children and £42.90 for families includes the falconry show.

YOUR WEEKEND

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It's a shore thing... there's loads to do

Kent Coastal Week
Saturday, October 27-Sunday, November 4
www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent
01622 694044

KENT Coastal Week starts later this month with a feast of activities, exhibitions and adventures for the whole family to enjoy.

Get to grips with the county's historic past and our maritime heritage, take a closer look at the wildlife on the shoreline, visit castles and revisit wartime Kent, from our big boats to our aviation defences.

You can even get a history lesson that reaches as far back as the Romans.

Adults and children alike can learn a thing or two from the Kent coast... Why is Britain an island? Were there ever dinosaurs here? These questions and many more can be answered at the free events based all along our coast.

Take a walk on the wild side Family events

Reculver, near Herne Bay
Friday, October 2
01227 740676
www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk

DISCOVER the maritime wildlife and history of Reculver at the visitor centre.

Wellies or sturdy footwear are required for the Strandline beach walk, which kicks the day off at 11am. In the afternoon, from 2pm, there will be a historical walk around the famous old fort.

Ready your swords, helmets and shields as there will be prizes for children who come in fancy-dress as a Roman, a Saxon or even a Norman.

The path to the beach is not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs or dogs on leads.

The events will begin at the visitor centre at 10.30am in Reculver Lane (postcode CT6 6SS).

Email info@entwildlifetrust.org.uk for more information.

Fish disco and a plaice for art See the light

Gillingham Pier
Sat, Oct 27, and Sat, Nov 3
01634 337723
www.mesp.org.uk

TRY some of the events aboard lightship LV21, moored off Gillingham Pier.

On Saturday, October 27, head on down to the Fish Disco from 7.30pm to 11.30pm, featuring the 'moogie wonderland' and indie-pop. There are prizes for the best deep-sea costume. Book your place for just £3.

On Saturday, November 3, head to Ship's Log – Tall Tales and Shorelines, where writers and artists gather for an evening of performance, film and storytelling from 7.30pm to 11.30pm. This is suitable only for those aged 16+.

There is a free boating show with family workshops from Thursday to Saturday, November 1-3, from 11am to 4pm.

Hitler's route to London ... via Cliffe

St Helen's Church, Cliffe
Saturday, October 27
11am to 4.30pm
www.northkentmarshes.com

HISTORY fans should call into St Helen's Church at Cliffe on the opening day of Kent Coastal Week and discover what was planned for the village by the military might of the Nazis.

Believe it or not, Cliffe, by the Thames, was on the favoured route for Adolf Hitler's invasion of Britian.

There will be a guided walk leaving the church at 11am with local historians Janet Keats and Bill Simmons.

There will be a two-mile flat walking route and the event will feature original Home Guard uniforms and other Second World War artefacts.

After the trek, head back to the church for more displays, swing music and refreshments in Lyons' Tea Room.

See www.northkentmarshes.com for more information.

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*Source: homes24.co.uk database May 2012

Pop-art guru likes 'cheesy' Broadstairs but he's not so hot on works of Turner

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

TURNER Contemporary in Margate is hosting an exhibition by American painter Alex Katz, described as "one of America's most important and respected living artists".

Born in New York in 1927, Katz has enjoyed a career spanning six decades, with Turner bringing together a selection of his work from the 1950s to the present in the form of paintings, collages and cut-outs.

Katz, who will be 86 this year, headed to the Thanet coast to talk about his pop-art-style paintings.

"I think I'm a bit of an escapist and that adds up to the feel-good factor," he said. "I want to give the public something pleasant.

"Inspiration comes from all different things. We got a new TV set. We wanted to get a big one, and I noticed that the close-ups on the set were completely different to the close-ups they used in the early 60s, so I thought I would paint some close-ups.

"Sometimes inspiration comes from ideas and sometimes from movies – I got a lot of paintings from a Russian movie. There were people walking on the street among trees and snow. So I found a place in New York that had trees and I went and made a painting. I froze and it was awful. But I got seven or eight paintings out of it."

POSE: Alex Katz at Turner Contemporary

The exhibition is entitled Give Me Tomorrow, a phrase with which he has been linked several times.

He said: "We wanted a light title for the show, something ambiguous, and it came from a book of poetry that Carter Radcliffe wrote, so I just lifted it.

"I made a suite of prints with that title that I did with Carter also."

It was also the title of a 28ft-tall and 53ft-long piece that filled a billboard space above the Bowery Bar in New York in 2005.

Katz said: "There was a British thing about Edward III, a Marlowe play I saw on TV and that had two men kissing in it.

"I thought that was pretty shocking and when the Bowery offered me the billboard I thought a painting of two men kissing would be just right for New York at that time."

Katz is acknowledged as a hugely influential precursor to the pop-art movement with which he became associated throughout the 1960s and included the likes of Andy Warhol.

Many of his pieces are taken from family holidays and fun times at his seaside retreat of Lincolnville in Maine, a long way from his temporary home in Broadstairs.

He said: "It [Broadstairs] is a charming town and typical of what I would expect. The ocean is always great to look at and I like the cheesy quality of the place."

Despite his work's residence at the eponymous Margate centre, Turner is not one of Katz's favourite artists.

He said: "No, I don't particularly like Turner, but he is real good. I saw the big show he had at the Royal Academy and I think he is highly skilled.

"He had troubles with oil and what I most admired about his work was that he kept trying to get better and finally at the end he got to really dominate oils.

"He is a guy I have a lot of admiration for, but he doesn't connect with me so much."

Alex Katz's Give Me Tomorrow will be at Turner Contemporary until January 2013. For details, phone 01843 233000 or visit www.turnercontemporary.org

Bravo! What a year it's been for the new-look Marlowe

THE Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury is celebrating the one-year anniversary of its rebuild with news of record audience numbers.

More than 325,000 people have attended an event at the new-look theatre, 11 per cent more than predicted before the ribbon was cut.

With the likes of comedian Stephen Merchant, musician Jools Holland and mega-show Calendar Girls enjoying sell-out performances, it is not surprising theatre director Mark Everett is pleased.

"It feels great, I feel we have got the initial difficulties of opening a new theatre behind us now," he said. "We have still got things we'd like to do to improve the building and how it operates, but the team has pulled together really well.

"We have had some fantastic audiences and it is onwards and upwards from here."

The theatre has boosted the east Kent economy, employing 54 permanent members of staff and a further 162 part-time workers.

The first year of The Marlowe's reincarnation has not been without its hiccups, including customer complaints over such matters as sound quality.

"The interesting thing was that in terms of attendances we were doing very well," said Everett. "We were at the 100 per cent mark through that first period. Our problems were in getting to know the building.

"We moved in, in a bit of a rush. It was a bit like moving into a new house – it is always a lot more difficult than you thought it would be.

"We had a few problems with the building, but people from the industry tell us that this is all normal.

"But, critically for us, the work on the stage has been very good. Performers love this theatre – they really can't wait to come back and have said that they find its dynamics, acoustics and facilities brilliant for performers of all kinds – dancers, actors, singers, the lot. That for me is the real test of its success.

"We have already turned over the best part of £10 million, so it's not a small production. I want to expand the programme still further – I think there's a way to go."

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Be prepared against dangers of flooding

WITH heavy rain a threat of autumn and winter, broker Towergate Insurance in Sevenoaks is warning householders what to do when the waters are set to rise.

In recent years parts of the Medway Valley and low-lying areas along the coast have seen problems with flooding.

Andy White, Towergate's regional managing director, said: "Flooding can have a major impact on lives, so it is vital that every precaution and evasive action is taken to mitigate the risk.

"Bearing that in mind, we have provided a few essential tasks to help both individuals and businesses protect against flooding."

These include a checklist of essential tasks:

- Identify a safe place where you, your family and/or your employees can keep away from the floodwater.
- Gather essential items together, including warm clothes, blankets, regular medication, a torch, food, a mobile phone and a battery-operated or wind-up radio.

AT RISK: Significant flooding has hit the county in the past

- Turn off gas, electricity and water supplies at the mains.
- Move electrical items and valuables to a first floor or higher position.
- Floods can kill. Never attempt to walk or drive through any depth of floodwater.
- Wait for the emergency services. Follow their instructions. If an evacuation order is issued, you comply!
- Call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 for the latest information and stay tuned to local radio.
- Floodwater can rise quickly; stay calm and reassure those around you. Phone 999 if you are in danger.

Get more space for your pound when you move to a new home

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

RESEARCH has shown that buying in Ashford offers home-buyers value for money when compared with equivalent properties in the south and east of London.

New four-bedroom houses are available in Ashford at just one third of the price per square foot that you would pay for a property in the bottom 10 per cent of the price range in east London.

Homes in areas such as Hackney and Stratford average £525 per square foot, while the average price for even the cheapest 10 per cent of properties in the area is still £375 per square foot, according to research published by Jones Lang LaSalle. But according to developer Fairview New Homes, a new four-bedroom home in Ashford is available for just £132 per sq ft.

Fairview has put together a new development called Evolution in Ashford, with four-bedroom houses available from £199,950, representing a price per square foot of just £132.

Evolution is a collection of one- and two-bedroom apartments and three- and four-bedroom houses set around landscaped gardens.

The properties have open-plan living areas and fully-fitted kitchens, with fan ovens, electric hobs and washer-dryers.

EVOLVING: Prices start at £119,950 for a two-bedroom apartment at the development

Each house and apartment is built with the environment in mind, with heating and hot water from a condensing boiler and renewable-energy system, and minimum 75 per cent energy efficient light fittings.

Steven Allenby, sales and marketing director of Fairview New Homes, said: "Ashford undoubtedly offers fantastic value for money and at Evolution we are proud to offer the best-value new homes."

Prices start at £119,950 for the final two-bedroom apartment, £165,550 for a three-bedroom house with a garden and £199,950 for a four-bedroom house.

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Prices correct at the time of printing and photography taken at Kings Hill or indicative of the lifestyle only.

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Vauxhall hope to put Mokka on SUV sector
- Fourth-generation Clio still turning heads
- Sorento given uplift from top to bottom

Peugeot's world-first hybrid diesel is a car for all reasons

Driving

carsforkent.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

JAGUAR F-TYPE

Price: from £58,000
Driving appeal: Not yet driven
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★
Value: ★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: New model
How green?: ★★
Best rival: Porsche Boxter

Jaguar finally makes boyhood dreams come true with F-Type

SOME Jaguar fans have waited a lifetime for the stunning new F-Type Jaguar.

As small boys, they will probably have stuck pictures of its illustrious forbear – the E-Type (1961-74) – in scrapbooks or on bedroom walls.

Some 50 years after the classic roadster – and later coupé – made its debut, we finally have a Jaguar that could be called its successor and maybe some of those boys will have the wherewithal to order one, with prices from £58,500.

They witnessed several false starts on the way, and the XJ-S (1975-1996), XK8 (1997-2006) and current XK were all too large to be called E-Type successors.

Perhaps the best chance that went begging came during Jaguar's decade as part of Ford, before being sold on to current owner Tata in 2008. This coincided with Ford's controlling interest – now relinquished – in Mazda when it might have made sense to build a new E-Type using the excellent MX-5 roadster platform.

As it is, those wanting the 'new E-Type' still have to wait until the middle of next year even if they order now, and the waiting list isn't going to get any shorter any time soon after that.

Admittedly, the 'F' probably doesn't have the jaw-dropping looks of the E-Type, which still wins awards as a car and even as a work of art.

At launch, the legendary Enzo Ferrari, who knew a bit about fast and gorgeous motors, called it "the most beautiful car ever made", though this comment might have been through gritted teeth, for the style and pricing of the Jag caused headaches for his own company.

The F-Type will gather many awards, though, for style and technology, while pricing may cause headaches against top-end rivals – though the Porsche Boxster looks good value.

The F-Type's muscular and sporting bodywork is all-aluminium, drawing on Jaguar's known expertise, and the same material has been used for some underpinnings to further save weight and enhance the driving experience gained from also using a classic rear-wheel-drive sports-car layout.

Three supercharged powertrains are offered for now; a new 3.0-litre V6 developed from Jaguar's 5.0-litre V8 is available in either 340PS (335bhp) or 380PS (375bhp), these two powering the entry model F-Type and the 'S' (£67,500) and delivering 0-60mph in 5.1 and 4.8 seconds respectively.

The same V8 engine has also been tweaked to create the flagship F-Type V8 S (£79,950) version, producing 496PS (488bhp) and capable of 0-60mph in 4.2 seconds.

The use of the word 'cockpit' to describe sports-car interiors is often overworked, but not here, although Jaguar prefers the phrase 'one plus one' to emphasise how the aviation-inspired dashboard has been wrapped around the driver. There's even a joystick-shaped shifter for the eight-speed automatic/manual gearbox.

IT'S THE REAL THING: After years of waiting, Jaguar has finally made a roadster that will cause top-end rivals major concern and should see the F-Type pick up awards for style and technological innovation

DON'T LIKE

... admitting that I was one of those little boys. It was a very long wait, but then the F-Type might be worth it, judging by other latter-day Jaguars.

NOT SURE

... it has the relative affordability of the E-Type, but maybe there are lesser powertrains and trim levels to come that will make it more accessible.

REALLY LIKE

... the aggressive styling of the car, which will make it an object of desire for many anyway, even without the undoubted power and drive quality.

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Cruze Hatchback 2.0 VCDi LT price includes metallic paint at a cost of £445. Spark and Aveo shown feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. Offer available until 31st December 2012. *0% APR Representative. Minimum 10% deposit. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RH1 1SR. Offers available at participating Dealers only and not available in conjunction with any other offer. Warranty expires at 5 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations and at participating Dealers only. Prices correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO_2 emissions 119g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) - 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) - 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) - 78.4 (3.6) CO_2 emissions 147 - 95g/km. Chevrolet Cruze Hatchback Range: Urban 26.4 (10.7) - 51.3 (5.5), Extra Urban 49.5 (5.7) - 72.4 (3.9), Combined 38.1 (7.4) - 62.7 (4.5) CO_2 emissions 174 - 117g/km.

MOTORING

Visit carsforkent.co.uk

Peugeot's Swiss Army knife car

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AFTER driving the world's first-ever diesel-hybrid car earlier this year, I said Peugeot had created a motoring Swiss Army knife.

Unfortunately, after a week with the Peugeot 3008 Hybrid4 (from £26,995), I've realised that this is even truer than I'd thought; like the famous penknives with the white cross, the hybrid's versatility comes at a premium price made worse if you don't use all the various gadgets.

If all you really need is the road-going equivalent of a sharp pocket knife, then you'd be thousands of pounds better off looking at a standard 3008, an excellent and versatile crossover anyway, with several low-emission and consumption eco versions on offer.

On the other hand, what you get with a 'Swiss Army Peugeot' hybrid 3008 is:

- The ability to run on all-electric zero-emission mode for limited periods – ideal for a local school run or shopping trip, which is when conventional engines are warming up and chucking most junk into the atmosphere.
- Low CO_2 emissions – some versions are exempt from road tax, and even the flagship model tested here escapes in year one and incurs just £20 thereafter.
- Four-wheel-drive – the diesel engine drives the front end, while the electric motor handles the rear. It's not an off-roader, but it deals with rough tracks and keeps you safer on-road.
- Sporty performance – with a total of 200bhp when both parts of the powertrain are engaged, the Hybrid4 is a muscular performer and can do 0-62mph in 8.5 seconds. For similar performance from a conventional 3008, you must buy a petrol model or pay for £22,795 for the flagship 2.0-litre Allure diesel.
- Economy – the official combined fuel consumption figure is 70.5mpg; until the arrival of the Hybrid4, all other hybrids used petrol engines, which undermines their efforts to beat the economy of conventional eco diesels, particularly at motorway speeds.

PEUGEOT 3008 HYBRID4 104G : PRICE £28,495

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£20/year (£0 year one)
Best rival:	Toyota Prius+

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CAR FOR ALL REASONS: Peugeot have launched the world's first diesel hybrid, the 3008 Hybrid4, a car that comes with a host of technological wizardry and would suit both the company car user chooser or the slightly more affluent eco warrior

But which of these 'gadgets' would you really use? Well, you'd want the economy and low emissions, but the most eco-friendly conventional 3008 models are not far short of this performance and priced at less than £20,000, and you get the usual 3008 crossover flexibility and space thrown in – the car will take five adults in comfort plus luggage.

So the Hybrid4 might look pricey for private buyers unless they are committed – and well-heeled – eco warriors. On the other hand, company-car user-choosers and their fleet managers can afford to be dispassionate about price and eco credentials and look simply at its corporate car-park appeal and economics.

Peugeot pitches the Hybrid4 as an executive model, so the car is particularly well equipped and visually upgraded against 'standard' 3008s, but the big lure is potentially huge savings on running costs and tax. Peugeot figures comparing the car with its nearest conventional 3008 equivalent suggest a company-car-driver might save £7,558 over three years, with a further £1,500 saving in London Congestion Charge fees if they commute to the capital.

The clincher, though, might be a test drive; on top of its technical genius, the Hybrid4 and Peugeot 508 models launched using the same powertrain are nicer to drive than most rival petrol hybrids. The use of the diesel gives muscular performance without huge damage to fuel consumption – you would have to afford the bigger and more expensive Lexus 450h petrol hybrid (from £44,500) to get close to the entertainment value.

From Peugeot's point of view, it won't end here because the French marque created a standalone electric-power module for the rear of the Hybrid4. This can link to whatever internal combustion partner Peugeot chooses to site at the front of the vehicle.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Crossover to a new Mokka?

CHOOSING a new crossover or SUV will be harder next month with the arrival of the Vauxhall Mokka.

It's a good-looking car and, backed by Vauxhall's market clout, should give a hard time to key rivals like Nissan's Qashqai and Juke, plus Skoda's Yeti.

Priced from £15,995, including alloys as standard, the Mokka is offered with front-wheel-drive or 4x4.

Fourth is with Renault's Clio

RENAULT opens order books on Thursday, November 1, for the fourth-generation Clio supermini, arriving in February.

Claiming a coupé profile plus five-door practicality, the French marque says the new model is wider, longer and lower yet lighter – averaging 100 kilos less – than before.

With prices from £10,995 and generous equipment, the car is also better value, says Renault.

Sorento given early upgrade

LESS than three years into its life-span, Kia's Sorento seven-seat SUV (from £26,495) has been given more than a mid-term upgrade.

The Korean marque calls it a "front-to-rear and top-to-bottom re-engineering of the car which improves safety, comfort, luxury and driving dynamics while lowering fuel consumption, emissions and running costs".

Order books are open, with deliveries from December.

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai Santa Fe range: Urban 31.7 (8.9) – 38.2 (7.4), Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) – 56.5 (5.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8) – 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 Emissions 178 – 155 g/km.

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New generation of game-changing estate

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

UPPING THE ANTE: While based on the 3 Series saloon, much of BMW's latest Touring model is new, offering the largest load capacity in its class

BMW changed the way that car-buyers looked at estate cars when it launched the 3 Series Touring in the late 1980s.

Of course, nobody was really fooled by the use of the fancy Touring suffix and, in truth, the estate-car back-end didn't give you much more space than the saloon version.

But BMW's new Touring sold by suggesting the owner was someone with a big house or weekend cottage in rural parts, and partial to a bit of huntin', shootin' and fishin'.

Before long, this 'lifestyle' or sporting-estate formula had been reproduced by other manufacturers and the once-humble estate car had been elevated above its station as a car used by tradesmen and reps needing stowage for tools or boxes of sample goods.

Five generations on from that game-changing derivative, BMW has now launched its latest Touring, priced from £29,380.

While based on the latest 3 Series saloon, out earlier this year, much of the car is new apart from the front end.

This has helped BMW give the car the largest load capacity in its class and boost practicality and flexibility while retaining its traditional lifestyle appeal.

The estate body is also more harmonious than seen on the previous-generation car and three powerful yet frugal engine choices are available at launch, with even the £ 34,700 flagship 330d Touring (258bhp) posting a combined fuel consumption of 55.4mpg while still able to hit 62mph in just 5.6 seconds. The likely best-seller, though, is the 184bhp 320d entry model, offering a 60.1mpg combined figure while still cracking the 0-62mph sprint in 7.7 seconds.

For those who want performance without the extra outlay for the 330d sporting diesel, there is also the 328i petrol version at a tempting £30,400; it's just marginally slower at take-off (0-62mph in six seconds) and the combined fuel consumption is 41.5mpg. Interior styling is identical to its saloon sister, but it's extra practicality that will attract Touring buyers; the loading sill is just 620mm off the ground and protected by a stainless-steel strip, while the new rear luggage area is 35 litres greater than before, at 495 litres.

Luggage-securing lugs, coat-hooks, luggage net and strap and a storage compartment to the left of the load area are all standard. And those irritated by the need to stash the luggage cover when not needed will find they can store this under the boot floor. The tailgate glass can also be opened independently for the quick stashing of shopping or light items.

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MOTORSPORT

Byrne's slender lead means nothing now

SHEPPEY rider Shane Byrne knows he cannot afford anything less than first places this weekend as he bids for his third British Superbike Championship title.

It's the final three races of the series this weekend at Brands Hatch, which is expecting a bumper crowd for one of its highlight events of the year.

CLOSE: Byrne leads

Byrne is currently leading the standings, but by just nine points over his closest rival. However, he is hoping to make home advantage count at his favourite track. It's been a dramatic end to the season which has seen Tommy Hill lead throughout, but then fall to fourth in the crucial Showdown rides where the top six riders battle it out for the title. That's left the door open for Byrne to take advantage, which he did in spectacular fashion as he took a first and a second in the first of the Showdowns in Assen.

That was after coming back from a shoulder injury which ruled him out for several weeks.

Byrne said: "To be honest, going into the Showdown I was third in the standings and I was quite happy with that as the pressure was on the guys in front of me. Now I have a nine point lead but it might as well be nothing when there are three lots of 25 points up for grabs. I think I am treating the weekend like I am behind and the best we can do is three wins.

"It is difficult to say how much better the bike is now compared to August as we don't know how much the other teams have moved on too since then. We know where we are and Brands Hatch wasn't that long ago so we have to approach the weekend ready to come straight out of the blocks for free practice.

"Our bike has worked well on the Grand Prix circuit in the past; I think that stands us in good stead and the boys have some good ideas on settings to try and improve some areas."

Australian Josh Brookes lies second in the standings as he bids for a maiden title, however young gun Alex Lowes closed the gap at Silverstone last time out and is only 15 points adrift, while defending champion Hill from Beckenham faces one of the biggest challenges of his career to overturn the 42 point deficit.

GOLF

All change for Stupples with school start bringing an end to family team

FORWARD: Deal golfer Karen Stupples is hoping for a better 2013 after a frustrating recovery from surgery that's hampered her year to date. She is now also without her husband as a caddy as her son starting school means he's needed for the school run.

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

STARTING school is one of those life-changing days for children, but for Logan James it may take a few years until he realises just how much it means.

His mum Karen Stupples, Deal's former British Open winner, has taken him almost everywhere as part of her touring team which, until this August, also included husband Bobby as caddy.

The five-year-old started school in America a couple of months ago meaning his dad is needed to do the school run while Karen is out practicing.

It brings to an end one of sports more unusual family groups as Stupples, who recently commentated for BBC Radio 5 Live on the Ryder Cup, now has a new caddie and gets ready to be a 'proper mum' at the weekends.

"He came everywhere with me apart from Asia. My husband caddied, so we did it as a family, which is great because it kept everyone together," she said.

"I'm going to have to make adjustments to my practice schedule now because I want to be fair to my family.

"It was great for Bobby too because it's not often a dad gets to spend all the time with his child when they're growing up. In terms of my performance sometimes it was quite hard because of the lack of sleep. If he got sick it put a strain on us because day care places wouldn't take him. If I work hard Monday to Friday I am going to be a proper mum at the weekend.

"The guy I have caddying for me now is good fun and he keeps me occupied. We support the same American football team so we have got lots of things to talk about."

The Florida resident, who's ranked 96th on the LPGA, has had just one top 10 finish this year. She puts that disappointment down to having started the year needing an operation which she hastily tried to recover from.

"It kind of set me back, it was one of those things that had to happen," she said. "I played golf the week after which was a bit silly, I was over anxious to get back at it. I'm incredibly competitive and can't help myself. This year has been a tough year for me."

While it's been a difficult year for Stupples, British sport has excelled thanks to the Olympics, which in Rio in four years time includes golf. Going to the Games, if selected, is a difficult dilemma for the 39-year-old.

"For golfers it's fantastic," said Stupples. "It will open it up to everybody. The Swedish are sending people out to the LPGA events now to get their people ready for the Olympics and that's amazing.

"I can't focus my playing career on that because I still have to make a living for my family at the moment. I'm looking at five to seven years playing time left, it will be difficult. There would be a lot of really talented young golfers about by then."

She was also sceptical about the sporting legacy the Games would leave on Britain: "I think it's very easy to see that right now. When I was over for the British Women's Open I had never seen so many people on bikes in my life. If it continues that would be just terrific, however, when the winter takes hold it would be very hard for people to stay motivated and continue with sport.

"In our area in Deal, where is the nearest running track or athletics facilities, or Olympic-sized swimming pool?"

One of the great sporting moments to add to the list for 2012 is the European Ryder Cup win two weeks ago which Stupples watched from one of the best seats in the house.

"It was a very strange thing. For some reason Europe just didn't get it together in the foursomes," she said.

"I got completely lost in the momentum of it. We went up to the commentating booth which was overlooking the 18th green, so we were no more than 25 yards away from it. I could barely watch because I was looking through my fingers. I have never experienced anything like it."

CHANGE: Camier is positive about next season

MOTORSPORT

New deal and manager for optimistic biker Camier

LEON Camier admitted that while he had offers to change allegiance next season in the World Superbike Championships it wasn't too difficult a decision to remain with FIXI Crescent Suzuki.

The 25-year-old, from Ashford, enjoyed a promising end to his season finishing 14th in the standings, having been frustrated for the majority of the season by mechanical issues.

Last month he picked up his first podium in the series finishing third at the Nurburgring.

He signed a new one-season deal with Suzuki after the final round of the season at Magnay-Cours in France at the weekend. Progress is the key for the former British Superbike Champion, who elected to stay despite offers from other WSB teams.

"There were some other possible options which I looked at quite closely, but I decided I wanted to stay where I was," he said. "I believe we have made some really good progress, if we can do a similar thing for next year we could be really strong.

"I like all the guys I'm working with and there's always a good vibe with the team, it's a nice place to be. It wasn't that difficult a decision. As long as I could see there was progress happening I was happy to stay."

His Suzuki bike has undergone a number of changes this season with a new engine and electrical set-up, taking a while to get used to.

"It wasn't quite what we wanted from the start," he said. "The team made a lot of changes through the year improving the bike and we have come out stronger at the end of the season.

"We are not just guessing; we know exactly what we need to do to improve. If we can make all the right changes, I'm hoping we can get off to a stronger start. I feel like I have been riding really good all year. On some of the tight technical tracks I have been the fastest in some sectors. The problems with the bike haven't helped me, but I have proven I'm fast.

"I can see the light at the end of the tunnel but for sure we want to be winning races."

A new deal hasn't been the only big news for Camier this week as team manager Jack Valentine stepped down, and is replaced by team owner Paul Denning.

"It's not a nice thing to lose Jack, he's a real nice friendly guy," said Camier. "Paul Denning has taken over the running of the team. He owns the team and he's run a GP team before so he knows the craic.

"I'm not worried about the level we'll be at, if anything it will be stronger having him come in. Paul's made some big changes for next year taking things on in a good way."

Although the season has ended he is straight back on the track this week for testing. It's not the best timing as he is still recovering from the bumps and bruises picked up during a fall in the first race in France.

FOOTBALL

Lucky charm Rook backs Margate to go for the title

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

CARL Rook knows he's on to a good thing when he sees one, that's why the three-time promotion winner feels Margate have all the ingredients needed to take the title.

The target man has won a trio of promotions in successful spells at Tonbridge Angels, Dartford, AFC Hornchurch. Now at Hartsdown Park he thinks there is a similar feeling to that of his previous clubs who have all risen up the leagues.

"This squad is as good as the three teams I have got promoted with," he said. "It's a familiar feeling. We know we have got a good team, but we don't want to say it too much because it puts too much pressure on us."

He left Hornchurch after he wasn't offered a contract, but was happy to come to Kent when manager Chris Kinnear called.

He said: "On a personal note it's been brilliant. I missed a game in pre-season because of a wedding and I was injured, so it was a slow start."

Gate's training ground in Gravesend is also a lot closer to home than travelling to Eastbourne who he also played for last season.

"It's been a massive help, it's helped my football I'm sure," he said. "I can try to get an hours sleep now before I go to training but before I was taking my training kit with me to work."

He revealed joining the club has given him a different perspective on non-league football.

"I think the non-league culture is changing. You used to go to the bar after the game and have a few drinks," he said. "Chris [Kinnear] has asked us to look after ourselves. He spoke to me about prolonging my career. I'm not 18 any more, going out three nights a week and then still playing football."

The 29-year-old has netted five times prior to this weekend, but has no intention of trying to live up to Gate star Kwesi Appiah who moved to Crystal Palace last January after a blistering start to the season. It's not the first time he has joined a club that's recently sold an in-form striker.

"I have never heard anything like it, he had something like 40 goals by Christmas. They are big boots to fill," he said. "When I joined Tonbridge Angels they had just sold Jon Main to AFC Wimbledon."

However, his role is a bit different to that of an out and out striker like Appiah.

"I get there first and get the flick-ons and they have to get the bits and pieces around me," he said. "I have asked for more crosses. I have scored about 75 per cent of my goals with my head."

REPEAT: Carl Rook, who has had three promotions in recent years, is eyeing another one with Margate after a successful start to the season which sees Chris Kinnear's side sitting pretty in the Ryman Premier table

FOOTBALL

Injury crisis is an unwelcome headache for Invicta manager

FOLKESTONE Invicta boss Neil Cugley is hoping his side can come through this week unscathed after a stomach bug and injuries have limited his options recently.

Cugley has just a small squad to choose from when they are fully fit, and so his selection task has been made all the harder as they've dropped like flies in the last few weeks. Despite that, and a dodgy patch of form Folkestone went into this weekend top of the Ryman One.

"It's been a bit up and down," he said. "We have had a few injuries and a stomach bug around the place, it's made us lose a bit of form. We are a club that can't have players out injured. It's taken its toll the last couple of weeks as we haven't played as well as we can. I'm hoping we can get through these next couple of weeks."

Last Saturday was an example of the problem. He had four players unavailable to start with, and then midfielder Darren Marsden had to come off injured at half time.

"That's a big deal for us," he said. "Having five players unavailable is difficult, we are having to put out untried players.

OPTIONS: Cugley is short of players

"The league is so strange, I have never known a season like it. Everybody is beating everybody at the moment. We are not a top of the table side."

He said others need to step up to take the goal scoring burden off Stuart King.

"The expectation is on Stuart [King] really," he said. "Other people have to chip in a bit more to be honest. We have tried different things, and changing things around but we are a bit restricted. If you've only got certain players you have got to go that way anyway."

FOOTBALL

'Stuttering' Bay have got more to give says Halsey

THE winning habit from the Kent League has strengthened Herne Bay's resolve in the step up to the Ryman One South believes manager Simon Halsey.

Bay were on a five-game unbeaten run in which they've fought back to earn draws twice in their last two games which is down to the mentality instilled in the players from last season's promotion-winning campaign.

Last Saturday, they came from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Burgess Hill, while on Tuesday, a 92nd minute equaliser from James Turner earned a point in the 2-2 draw at Chipstead.

"We are on a five game unbeaten run at the moment," said Halsey. "But I truly believe we haven't got going, we are stuttering along.

"Winning became a great habit for us last year, I strongly believe that was what got us through last Saturday, and Tuesday night. It proves we will never give up.

"I think pre-season expectation was we were going to be okay but as the games have gone on it's become clear the difference in quality in this league. A lot of my lads are just out of the Kent League but they are starting to match sides which is great. They are learning very quickly so I'm pleased."

Fifth placed Bay take on Three Bridges this weekend and could overstep Halsey's mark of target of earning 15 points from their first ten games.

FORM: Halsey points to good habits

CRICKET

Picture: ADY KERRY

SKILLS: Jones happy with the gloves or stick

Jones swaps his bat for a stick in winter fitness bid at Canterbury club

THE cricket season may be over, but that doesn't mean Geraint Jones is putting his feet up.

Fitness isn't something the Kent wicketkeeper struggles with, but to keep himself active over the winter months he's joined Canterbury hockey club. It's a safer option to his other love, rugby, which may not have gone down too well with the coaching staff at the St Lawrence Ground.

The 36-year-old happily admits it's a game he's not too familiar with having played just a couple of times before, and he's not too worried about picking up an injury either.

"The good thing is they're not precious about things like injuries. I think they laugh at me more than anything. They think me a bit mad for wanting to play," he said. "I admit I haven't got any idea about the rules. I scored my first goal on Saturday with a reverse sweep, luckily I remembered to turn the stick around first."

He took up the offer to join the Canterbury Griffins team after encouragement from friends at his local cricket club in Ash.

"It's a mixture of beginners and old boys who are just after a social game on a Saturday, so I fit in quite well," he said.

"I have always played sport. I love my rugby but I could potentially get badly injured playing that. Opposite where I grew up was a big park, so I was always kicking a football or rugby balls, playing cricket or riding around on my bike. I wasn't one for sitting in the house."

After the final game of the season, the squad went through a fitness test so their results could be compared to the start of the season and against the results on their return to pre-season training after Christmas.

He has a little time off from official Kent fitness duties for the winter programme, organised by coach Pete Kelly.

"The last couple of years since we have had Pete on board we have a proper winter programme," he said. "I have told him not to speak to me until November at least, so there's a bit of time off. He does vary it really well so we're not going into the gym doing the same things.

"I was happy with my fitness results. I tend to pretty much stay the same all through summer. I watch what I eat and drink, and I'm lucky at home because there's plenty to do outside. I walk the dogs in the morning and this time of year there's a lot of tidying up to do."

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*Not Available on Expression, ES, Vauxhall Tech Line, New Astra Hatchback/Sports Tourer BiTurbo, Ampera and VXR8 models. **Vauxhall Deposit Contribution excludes Mokka and Corsa SXi models. ‡Term can be from 24-60 months. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Flexible Finance supplied by either Vauxhall Motor Finance RH1 1SR or Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 17 December 2012. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. ^Customer deposit shown after deduction of Vauxhall contribution.